

# The SPORTS PINK

55p

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## TRANSFER INS & OUTS

**Who's signed for Saints  
Prem rivals - pages 4-7**

# LEFT IN LIMBO

## Buttner deal leaves question mark over futures of Saints duo

**DAN Harding and Ryan Dickson face uncertain Saints futures after the signing of Alexander Buttner moved a step closer.**

Saints have agreed a fee with Vitesse Arnhem for the 23-year-old Dutchman,

believed to be about £2.5m, and all that remains to be completed are the formalities of agreeing personal terms and passing a medical, **writes ADAM LEITCH.**

Buttner, right, is a versatile player but has made his name as a left back.

■ **Continued on page 2**



**DAN HARDING:**  
Fall down the pecking order.



### TERRY PAINE



**Saints legend's EXCLUSIVE column**  
See page 3

### NON-LEAGUE



**SIX pages of non-league news**  
See pages 10-15

### CRICKET



**All the latest Hampshire news**  
See pages 32-33



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# Who will make way for the new signing?

■ From front page

Saints may ultimately view him as cover for Adam Lallana on the left of midfield but the very presence of another left sider means those down the pecking order are being pushed further out of the picture.

If Saints think of Buttner as a left back then it means they will have five in the first team squad – Danny Fox, Buttner, Harding, Dickson (pictured below) and promising youngster Luke Shaw, whose progress Saints don't want to see blocked.

That is certainly a hefty number to carry, especially given the Premier League rules which limit clubs to a maximum of 25 squad members. Shaw would be excluded from that because of his age but four out of 25 is still a lot of left backs.

Dickson and Harding are the likely casualties of such a problem. Fox has only been at Saints one season, and with the club having forked out £1.8m for him and been



impressed with his performances it is hard to see him moving on.

Shaw is a hot prospect so it is Harding and Dickson who face uncertain times.

Dickson could already have gone had Saints come to an agreement with him on the end of his contract when a move to Crawley collapsed as a result.

The 25-year-old, who joined from Brentford in 2010 and still has a year left on his current deal, only figured twice for Saints last season, both appearances in the Carling Cup at the start of the campaign as the club rested first team stars.

Harding was an integral part of the team that won promotion from League One but found himself as more of a fringe player last season due the arrival of Fox, who was a consistent performer and became the first choice left back.

Potential cover for Lallana further up the field is vital for Saints. With Jason Puncheon still on the periphery of things there is very little cover for one of Saints' most creative forces and that is an area that Nigel Adkins will be pleased to strengthen.

**AND so it came to pass that yet again England departed a major tournament on penalties without even denting the semi finals.**

Was anyone remotely surprised?

A team that was at best patchwork, stuttered and toiled against a talented Italian side and registered a mind numbing 12 shots on goal against 49 from the Italians.

There's playing for penalties and there's playing the footballing equivalent of defending the Alamo and England came up woefully short.

There have been the customary post mortems and it's a credit to Roy Hodgson that so few criticisms have been aimed at him, despite his insistence on keeping a woefully out of sorts Wayne Rooney and Ashley Young on the pitch and not utilising the likes of Walcott and Oxlade Chamberlain more.

It anything, our failure yet again highlights just where our national side fails so abysmally.

Facebook has been awash with jokes showing that Carroll, Henderson and Downing cost significantly more than Iniesta, Messi and Xavi.

You'd be hard pushed to actually find it actually funny when it's actually true.

The failings of our national side lie firmly with the Premier League and its so called status of the "Best league in the world."

Certainly there have been some great games last season, and you'd be hard pushed to better the finale between Manchester City and Queens Park Rangers.

But we're deluded if we think football begins and ends with the Premier league.

The massive amounts of money that float around our game have turned talented footballers into bloated millionaires who just don't seem to have the incentive to go that extra mile for their country.

The sight of Wayne Rooney plodding around the pitch was heart breaking when you consider the raw hungry talent that burst on the national scene against Australia on February 12 2003 at the tender age of seventeen.

It would appear that Rooney has joined that elite group of footballer who seem to think that somehow they're better than us, the football fans that effectively pay his wages.

You can see it in a lot of the so-called Premiership big names.

There appears to be a lack of empathy between the fans and the players, and it goes both ways.

It's hard to identify with a feckless 25-year-old who earns more in a week than we do in a year.

Likewise, how can they empathise with us?

The harsh truth is that England are so far beyond the likes of Spain and Germany it's almost frightening.

Ask yourself, how many of our national squad play outside of the Premier League?

The answer is, unsurprisingly enough, none of them.

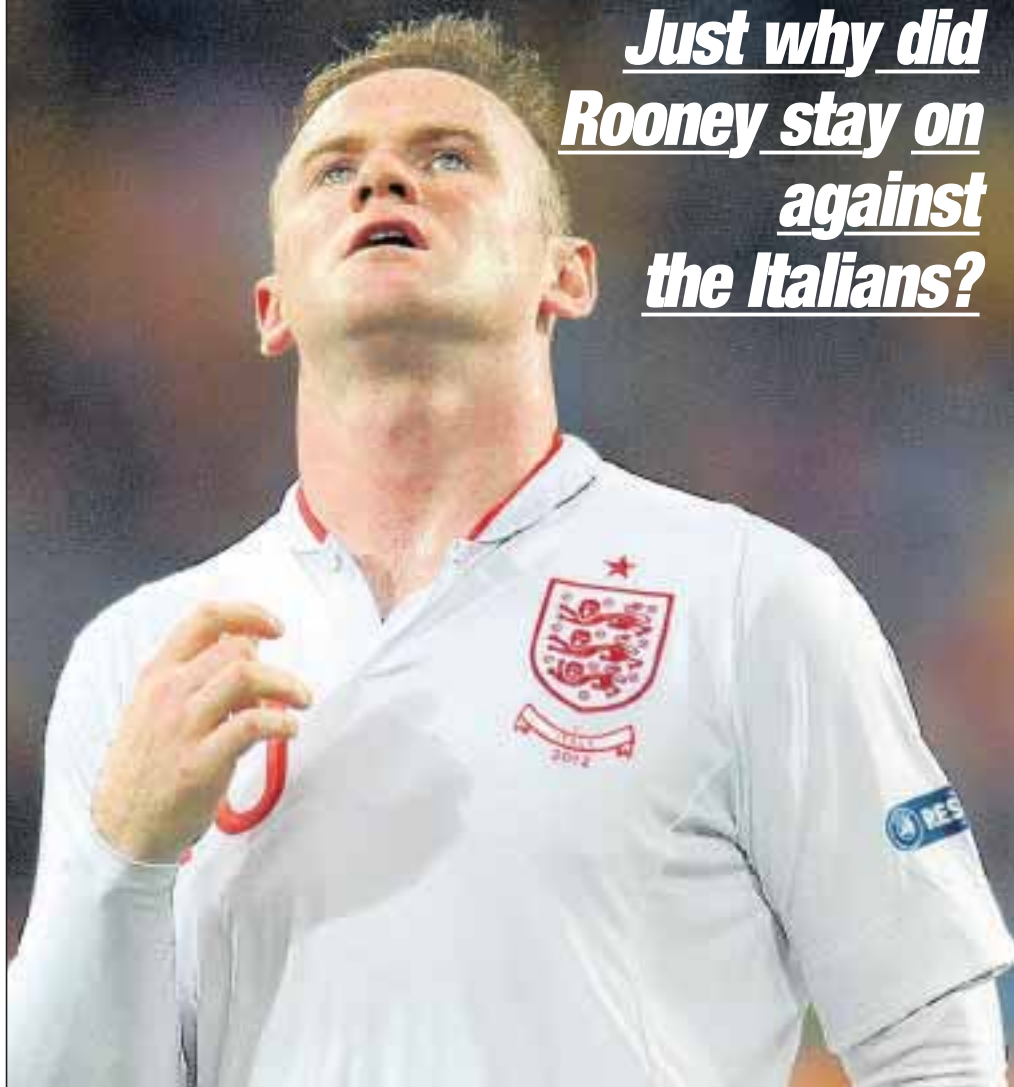
Not one of the current England squad has ever played outside of this country.

# BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

# UNTOUCHABLE?

*Just why did Rooney stay on against the Italians?*



The ultimate irony is that the current influx of foreign players into the English game has made it

ridiculously difficult for English players to break through into the Premier League first team squads.

The equally ridiculous knock on effect from this is that English players seem to fetch ludicrously high prices on the UK transfer market.

Can anyone – anyone – please explain to me how it is that Stewart Downing is worth £20 million?

Downing became the first player in seven years to miss three consecutive penalty kicks in the Premier League.

He also managed no league goals and no assists over the entire league season, and yet is seen as an England regular.

Andy Carroll who, apart from showing some promise, is the most

ridiculous use of £35 million I can remember.

£10 million? Maybe.

But £35 million? Not in a million years.

This country's obsession with the Premier League is partly responsible for our current failings.

Had Wayne Rooney been a club player showing that sort of form, he'd have been dropped.

So just why was he kept on the pitch for so long against Italy when he was clearly the worst player on the pitch?

The answer is that Brand Rooney seems untouchable and the pressure is on any England manager to play him, fit or not.

What is the answer?

For many of us, Germany seemed the best bet for European glory only for them to struggle against a team we stifled and contained for

120 minutes.

Surely England aren't that far behind everyone else?

The answer may well be that the most obvious line up may not be the winning line up.

For Roy Hodgson to succeed then, unfortunately, club must come before country.

And for many of us who follow our teams home and away, it's the other way round.

Until football comes before wages, until glory comes before money, the national game will always be an afterthought for our millionaire footballers.

Somewhere along the line, playing for your country stopped becoming a privilege and became a chore.

Until it becomes the highlight of your career, we'll continue to be a second rate sporting nation...

**CONTACT THE SPORTS DESK ON 02380 424515**



# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football

## THE golden years of Spanish football continue to roll on.

Their incisive and decisive display against Italy in last weekend's final marked them down as possibly the greatest international side of all time.

The likes of France and Germany never successfully defended the European Championship title and Brazil and Italy never won back-to-back continental titles either.

So where do the Spanish go from here, following their 4-0 win against Italy?

And what of those who criticised the style of their play prior to the final?

Their passing and movement was mesmerising, perhaps best illustrated by Jordi Alba's goal.

The left-back started the move in his own half before hitting the net seven seconds later!

The focus for Spain now will be the 2014 World Cup.

Coach Vincent del Bosque extended his contract till 2014 prior to the European Championships so will continue in Brazil.

Spain's admired style will continue and that could be bad news for Spanish strikers, particularly Fernando Torres, whose three goals and an assist were enough to win the Golden Boot.

His total was equalled by five others but he won it due to the fact that he had the best strike rate, having only participated for 189 minutes.

The award will come as some consolation for a player who had a difficult time in the Premiership last season, scoring eight goals in 32 appearances.

But the goal against Italy marks him down as the first to score in two European Championship finals.

Certainly, Spain's tactical approach was different, with Cesc Fabregas an unorthodox number nine.

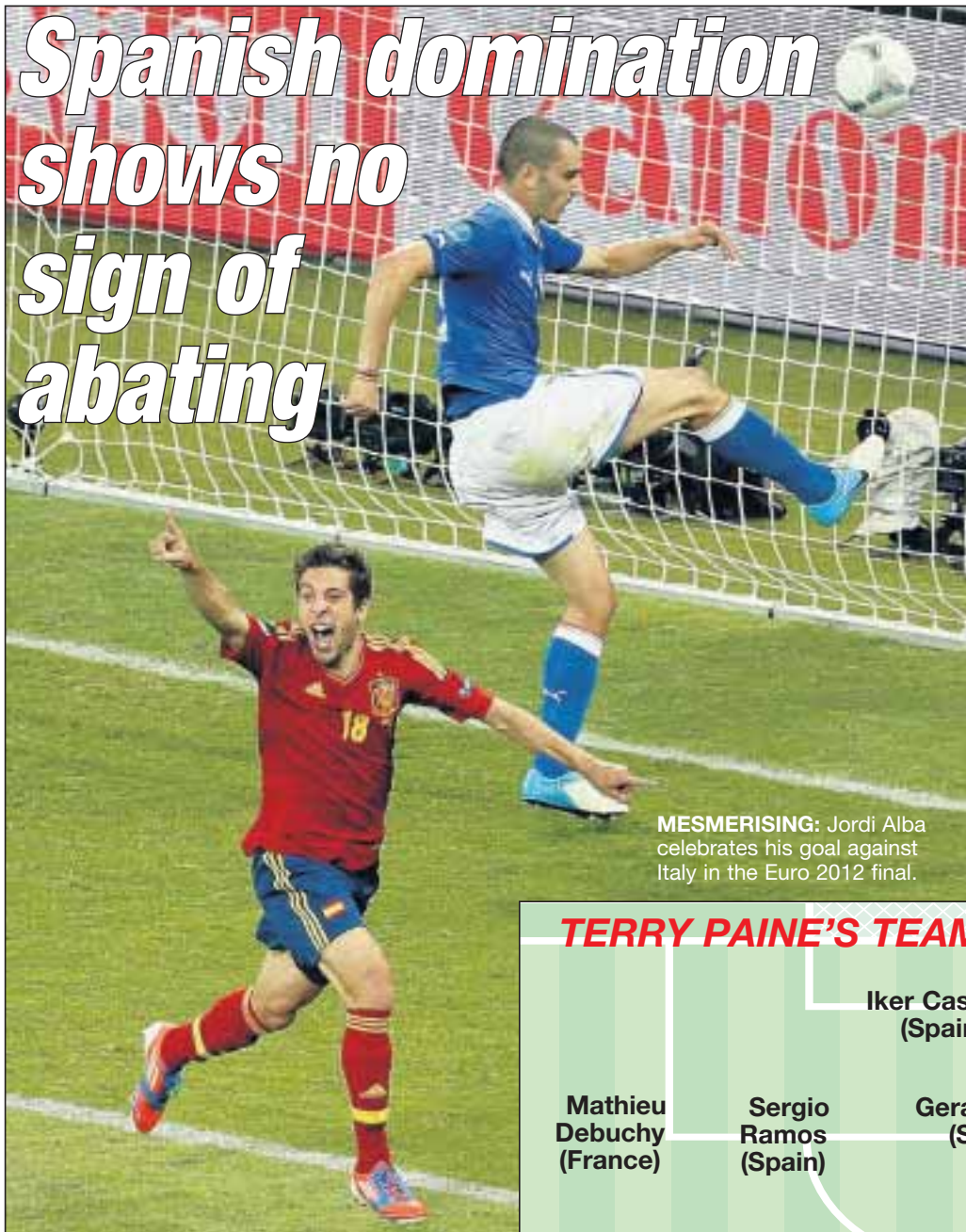
It will be interesting to see whether Del Bosque will persist with this experiment as Spain have a number of friendlies against Puerto Rico and Saudi Arabia before the World Cup qualifiers begin with a trip to Georgia on September 11.

Other opposition include France, who are in disarray with Laurent Blanc walking from his post and several players awaiting discipline measures.

Although outplayed in the final, Italy showed enough know how and improved as the tour progressed.

In Andrew Pirlo, they have a player who can pass short or long with precision and his creativity drove

## Spanish domination shows no sign of abating



MESMERISING: Jordi Alba celebrates his goal against Italy in the Euro 2012 final.

## AVB stock is still high

AFTER winning the Portuguese domestic double and Europa League at Porto in 2010/11, Andre Villas-Boas was headhunted by Chelsea.

He arrived at Stamford Bridge with a huge, if inexperienced reputation.

Aged just 34, AVB was to some a confrontational, arrogant figure who failed to gel with his strong-willed squad and was sacked after only 250 days in charge.

Fortunately, the former Chelsea manager would have been encouraged that his stock has remained high and returns as Tottenham's manager just four months after his sacking on a three-year contract.

He replaces Harry Redknapp, whose Spurs side finished a credible fourth last season.

The hope is that Daniel Levy is right with his choice and that the glowing references in place 12 months ago are still as good today.

Perhaps the break he's had in Portugal will have enabled him to reflect on his nightmare stay at Chelsea and approach his new position in a more mellow frame of mind.

He's certainly got some big boots to fill as he tries to emulate his predecessor.



## TERRY PAINE'S TEAM OF EURO 2012



Italy forward.

The mercurial Mario Balotelli thrived on service and his well taken goals against Germany put Italy in the final.

As a player he has a love-hate relationship with the public.

As we've seen at Manchester City, his pouting petulance often gets him into trouble.

Fostered after being born to immigrants, 21-year-old Balotelli waited till his 18th birthday for Italian citizenship.

He made his debut aged 15 at 3rd division Lumezzane before being drafted into the Inter Milan family,

making his first appearance as a substitute in December 2007 under Roberto Mancini.

By reaching the Euro 2012 final, Italy have qualified for the 2013 Confederations Cup in Brazil, Spain already qualifying as World Cup holders.

Held every four years as a warm-up for the World Cup itself, the Confederations Cup is ideal for testing the preparedness of stadia, which as usual have come under scrutiny.

Spain and Italy will join Uruguay, Brazil, Tahiti and Japan.

The African representative is not yet decided.



# Premiership Spotlight



## PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS

### Arsenal

**In:** Lukas Podolski (Cologne) £10m, Olivier Giroud (Montpellier) £12m  
**Out:** Jeffrey Monakana (Preston) Free, Ben Glasgow (Stoke) Free, Rhys Murphy (Telstar) Free, Oguzhan Ozyakup (Besiktas) £350k, Manuel Almunia (Released), Tom Cruise (Torquay) Free

### Aston Villa

**In:** Karim El Ahmadi (Feyenoord) Undisclosed  
**Out:** Carlos Cuellar (Sunderland) Free, Emile Heskey, Brad Guzan (all released)

### Chelsea

**In:** Marko Marin (Werder Bremen) £6.5m, Eden Hazard (Lille) £32m  
**Out:** Jacob Mellis (Barnsley) Free, Didier Drogba (Shanghai Shenhua) Free, Jose Bosingwa, Salomon Kalou (both released)

### Everton

**In:** Steven Naismith (Rangers) Free  
**Out:** Adam Forshaw (Brentford) Free, James Wallace (Tranmere) Undisclosed, Aristote Nsiala (Accrington) Free, Connor Roberts (Fulham) Free, Marcus Hahnemann, James McFadden (both released)

### Fulham

**In:** George Williams (MK Dons) Undisclosed, Connor Roberts (Everton) Free, Mladen Petric (Hamburg) Free  
**Out:** Andrew Johnson (QPR) Free, Danny Murphy (Blackburn) Free, Zdenek Grygera, Pavel Pogrebnyak, Bjorn Helge Riise (all released)

### Liverpool

**In:**  
**Out:** David Amoo (Preston) Free, Fabio Aurelio (Gremio) Free, Dirk Kuyt (Fenerbahce) £1m, Joe Rafferty (Rochdale) Free

### Manchester City

**In:**  
**Out:** Owen Hargreaves, Stuart Taylor (both released)

### Manchester United

**In:** Nick Powell (Crewe) £4m, Shinji Kagawa (Borussia Dortmund) £12m  
**Out:** Ritchie De Laet (Leicester) Undisclosed, Matty James (Leicester) Undisclosed, Tomasz Kuszczak (Brighton) Free, Oliver Norwood (Huddersfield) Free, Paul Pogba (Juventus) Free, Michael Owen (released), Fabio Da Silva (QPR) Loan

### Newcastle United

**In:** Romain Amalfitano (Stade de Reims) Free  
**Out:** Leon Best (Blackburn) £3m, Dan Taylor (Oldham) Free, Danny Guthrie (Reading) Free, Peter Lovenkrands, Alan Smith (all released)

### Norwich City

**In:** Steven Whittaker (Rangers, free), Jacob Butterfield (Barnsley) Tribal  
**Out:** Adam Drury (Leeds) Free, Zak Whitbread (released), Aaron Wilbraham (Crystal Palace) Free.  
**Continued on facing page**

## Simon Carter

simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS EDITOR

### THE Premier League close season transfer window activity is starting to hot up.

Managers and players are coming back from their holidays – apart from those that competed in Euro 2012.

Now that Tottenham have appointed Andre Villas-Boas, all 20 top flight clubs have permanent managers (or head coaches) in place.

As a result, we can expect some big money moves in the next few weeks as the countdown gathers pace ahead of the 2012/13 campaign opening on August 18.

Here, the *Sports Pink* takes a look at the players Saints' rivals have brought in so far ...

### ARSENAL

It's become quite obvious why Arsene Wenger has splashed out on two international strikers this summer.

The long-serving Frenchman has paid about £13m for his fellow countryman Olivier Giroud after first signing German Lukas Podolski for around £10m just days after the 2011/12 season finished.

The Gunners' only regular goal threat last term was Robin van Persie, who belted an incredible 30 Premier League goals in 37 starts plus one as a sub.

The talismanic Dutchman was the only Arsenal player to hit double figures in the league, with ex-Saint Theo Walcott next best with eight and then defender Thomas Vermaelen with six.

Last summer's £10.5m strike signing, Brazilian Gervinho, only ended up netting four Premier League goals from 19 starts, plus nine as a sub.

And news broke this week that van Persie will be leaving The Emirates after failing to sign a new contract.

Now Wenger must decide whether to cash in on his prize asset or risk losing him for nothing next year.

If he cashes in, Wenger's two new arrivals could hold the key to a successful season – ie, finishing in the top four. Once a gimme, Arsenal are no longer certainties for a Champions League place anymore.

Giroud, 25, netted 21 goals in 36 Ligue 1 games for Montpellier last season, prior to making three appearances for France at Euro 2012.

Podolski also enjoyed a good domestic season for Cologne, scoring 18 times in 29 Bundesliga outings.

### ASTON VILLA

New boss Paul Lambert should certainly be a busy man this summer, and this week he made his first signing.

He brought in Feyenoord's Dutch-born Moroccan international midfielder Karim El Ahmadi, 27.

### CHELSEA

The European champions beat off competition from the likes of



LUKAS PODOLSKI



EDEN HAZARD



SHINJI KAGAWA

# Who has made in the transfer



MARKO MARIN



OLIVIER GIROUD



STEVEN NAISMITH

Manchester United and Manchester City to bring in Belgian Eden Hazard last month for a fee around the £30m mark.

The Blues have bought potential – Hazard, an attacking midfielder, is only 21.

He knows where the goal is, though – having scored 20 goals in 38 Ligue 1 games for third-placed Lille last season.

With Roberto di Matteo now having no Didier Drogba to call upon, Hazard's goalscoring ability will be crucial in 2012/13.

Less high profile was the signing of German international midfielder Marko Marin from Werder Bremen, but it's a sign of the times that a club can splash out almost £7m on a player and it makes barely a few paragraphs in

the national press!

### EVERTON

The Toffees have capitalised on Rangers' precarious financial position by signing Scottish international striker Steven Naismith on a free.

The 25-year-old has not played since last October after suffering a

**FOR THE LATEST SAINTS TRANSFER NEWS**



# Premiership Spotlight



ANDY JOHNSON



SAMBA DIAKITE



NICK POWELL

## the best moves market so far?



GARATH MCCLEARY



ROBERT GREEN



STEVEN WHITTAKER

cruciate knee injury.

Prior to that, he had scored ten goals in 20 games and netted 16 times for club and country in 2010/11.

### FULHAM

Martin Jol has brought in a striker who appeared in Euro 2012 in the shape of Croatian Mladen Petric.

The 31-year-old scored seven times in 26 Bundesliga appearances for Hamburg last season, but did manage 11 in 22 outings for the same club the previous season.

Jol certainly needs new firepower.

Clint Dempsey might have bagged 17 goals last term, but the next highest were Pavel Pogrebnyak (6), Bobby Zamora (5) and Andy

Johnson (3). And all three of the latter are not around at Craven Cottage any more.

### LIVERPOOL

New manager Brendan Rodgers has yet to make any signings.

### MANCHESTER CITY

Manager Roberto Mancini has yet

to add to his title-winning squad.

### MANCHESTER UNITED

Sir Alex Ferguson has wasted no time strengthening his squad in the wake of United failing to win a major trophy in 2011/12.

He splashed out £12m to sign Borussia Dortmund midfielder Shinji Kagawa and £4m to bring in one for the future, Crewe Alexandra's 18-year-old Nick Powell.

Kagawa could provide more creativity and a goalscoring presence from midfield – he netted 14 times as Dortmund walked away with the Bundesliga crown by eight points last term.

United could do with more mid-field goals – Nani was the top scorer in that department last season with eight league goals, while Ashley Young contributed just six.

At 23, Kagawa fits Ferguson's template of bringing younger players through. He doesn't sign many players in their prime, does he?

As a result, it was no surprise that he was keen to bring Powell to Old Trafford.

Handed his League 2 debut by Crewe aged just 16 in August 2010, Powell netted 14 times last season to help Alex to promotion play-off success.

Even at his young age, he showed he is one for the big occasion by scoring in Crewe's 2-0 Wembley victory over Cheltenham in what proved to be his last match for the club.

No manager in Premier League history has given more home-grown young players a chance to shine than Ferguson.

Powell might have been bought in, rather than brought through the ranks, but have no doubt that under the manager's masterful eye he will blossom into a future England international.

### NEWCASTLE UNITED

Alan Pardew's only signing so far is 22-year-old attacking midfielder Romain Amalfitano, who has joined on a free from French club Stade de Reims.

### NORWICH

New Canaries boss Chris Hughton has so far brought in Jacob Butterfield and Steven Whittaker.

Butterfield, 22, arrived from Barnsley, where he has not played since last December due to a serious knee injury.

An attacking midfielder player, he likes to play just behind the front two – but Norwich are not short of players who like to operate in that role as they also boast Wes Hoolahan and Johnny Howson.

Whittaker is one of the players who have left Glasgow Rangers in the wake of the Scottish giants' financial crisis.

The Scottish international right back, 28, certainly likes to attack – he scored 28 goals for Rangers in around 200 games, including 11 goals in 2010/11.

But whether that says more about his ability, or the state of the game north of the border, remains to be seen.

Whittaker had cost Rangers £2m from Hibernian in the summer of 2007.

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

### QPR

**In:** Ryan Nelsen (Tottenham) Free, Andrew Johnson (Fulham) Free, Robert Green (West Ham) Free; Samba Diakite (Nancy) Undisclosed, Fabio Da Silva (Manchester United) Loan  
**Out:** Patrick Agyemang, Akos Buzsaky, Lee Cook, Danny Gabbidon, Fitz Hall, Rowan Vine, Peter Ramage, Gary Borrowdale, Danny Shittu (all released)

### Reading

**In:** Garath McCleary (Nottingham Forest) Free, Danny Guthrie (Newcastle) Free, Pavel Pogrebnyak (Stuttgart) £6m.  
**Out:** Andy Griffin, Cedric Baseya, Brian Howard, Tomasz Cywka (all released)

### Saints

**In:** Jay Rodriguez (Burnley) £7m  
**Out:** Harlee Dean (Brentford) Free, Lee Holmes (Preston) Free, Bartosz Bialkowski (Notts County) Free, Aaron Martin (Crystal Palace) Loan, Ryan Doble (Shrewsbury) Free, David Connolly (Released), Radhi Jaidi (Retired)

### Stoke City

**In:** Ben Glasgow (Arsenal) Free  
**Out:** Andrew Davies (Bradford) Free, Salif Diao, Ricardo Fuller, Tom Soares (all released)

### Sunderland

**In:** Carlos Cuellar (Aston Villa) Free  
**Out:** Trevor Carson (Bury) Free, Craig Gordon (released), George McCartney (West Ham) Undisclosed.

### Swansea City

**In:**  
**Out:** Ferrie Bodde (released)

### Tottenham

**In:** Gylfi Sigurdsson (Hoffenheim) Undisclosed  
**Out:** Niko Kranjcar (Dynamo Kiev) £5.5m, Ryan Nelsen (QPR) Free, Lee Angol (Wycombe) undisclosed, Louis Saha, Ben Alnwick (both released)

### WBA

**In:** Ben Foster (Birmingham) £4m  
**Out:** Joe Mattock (Sheffield Wednesday) Free, Keith Andrews (Bolton) Free, Lateef Elford-Alliyu (Bury) Free, Marton Fulop, Somen Tchoyi, Nicky Shorey, Paul Scharner (all released)

### West Ham United

**In:** Jussi Jaaskelainen (Bolton) Free, Mohamed Diame (Wigan) Free, Stephen Henderson (Portsmouth) Undisclosed, George McCartney (Sunderland) Undisclosed  
**Out:** Sam Cowler (Barnet) Undisclosed, Robert Green (QPR) Free, Frank Nouble (Wolves) Free, Ruud Boffin (Eskisehirspor) Free, Jordan Brown (Barnet) Free, Freddie Sears (Colchester) Free, Peter Kurucz, Julien Faubert, John Carew, Abdoulaye Faye, Papa Bouba Diop (all released)

### Wigan Athletic

**In:**  
**Out:** Chris Kirkland (Sheffield Wednesday) – Free, Mohamed Diame (West Ham) – Free, Steve Gohouri, Hugo Rodallega, Hendry Thomas (all released)

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## BOOK of the WEEK

**The Eagle of Toledo**  
By Alasdair Fotheringham

**Sportsbookofthemonth.com**  
price: £11.89, saving 30% on rrp

Of the 219 cyclists who set off on the 99th Tour de France on Saturday, it's hard to imagine any that has a personality to match that of the 1959 champion, and one of the great climbers of any era, Federico Bahamontes.

Arrogant, aloof, individualist and ferociously competitive, Bahamontes was nevertheless a Spanish sporting icon during General Franco's reign, his gung-ho approach to mountain climbing making him one of the sport's most popular characters.

Bahamontes was born in Toledo in 1928 and grew up in civil war-torn Spain.

He developed his stamina for cycling by riding to collect food which he would then sell on the black market to feed his poverty stricken family.

Still renowned as the man who stopped at the top of Col de la Romeyere for an ice cream while leading the 1954 Tour de France, Bahamontes finished his career with one maillot jaune and six King of the Mountains titles.

But this was viewed as scant reward for a man rated by the legendary Eddy Merckx as, "one of the greatest cyclists ever".

Alasdair Fotheringham's captivating book tells the tale of how Bahamontes made his way to the top of the cycling pantheon and offers several reasons why 'The Eagle of Toledo' was not able to make more of his considerable talents on two wheels.

Like so many sporting greats, Bahamontes' character was not without its failings and surrounding his victorious pursuit of the yellow jersey are tales of resignations, arguments and physical conflicts.

Indeed, Bahamontes' rivalry and infighting with Basque teammate Jesus Loroño was so fierce that it heightened Spanish political tensions between Franco supporting Bahamontes fans and the Basques in the Loroño camp.

The cut-throat world of 1950s cycling, years before television's intrusion, allows for wild and differing claims from those involved in the disputes, but Fotheringham's considered and impartial stance makes 'The Eagle of Toledo' an unremittingly entertaining read.

Perhaps most surprising is that only one previous biography has ever been written about 'Baha' and that has long been out of print.

This was a story that needed retelling, and Fotheringham does it justice.

For those with an interest in Le Tour, or else searching for an excellent sporting summer read, 'The Eagle of Toledo' is quite simply a must.

● We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of The Eagle of Toledo to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website ([www.sportsbookofthemonth.com](http://www.sportsbookofthemonth.com)) and answer the following question:

**Name the Spanish rider stripped of the 2010 Tour de France title.**

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# Premiership Spotlight



## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

### QPR

Mark Hughes has been one of the busier Premier League managers this summer after his club just avoided the drop in May.

He has strengthened in all departments, with some intriguing signings.

Up front Hughes has brought in his former Fulham striker Andy Johnson.

Johnson cost the Cottagers £10.5m in the summer of 2008, but he left for nothing after being released.

He has only scored three Premier League goals in the last three seasons – ironically, all in the same game.

Even more ironically, that hat-trick came against QPR in a 6-0 win last season!

Johnson made his name with the 28 league goals that helped Crystal Palace win promotion to the Premier League in 2003/04.

Now 31, his best days appear behind him – though Hughes obviously doesn't think so.

The ex-Saint has also brought in a new goalkeeper, England's Rob Green.

Green left promoted West Ham after his contract ended, and will be desperate to avoid a third top flight demotion next season – he first went down with Norwich in 2004/05 and again with West Ham six years later.

Still only 32, Green will be convinced his best years still lie ahead of him, and he should start the season No 1 ahead of Paddy Kenny and Radak Cerny.

New Zealand international defender Ryan Nelsen and Mali midfielder Samba Diakite have also joined.

Nelsen is known to Hughes after the pair worked together at Blackburn, prior to Nelsen joining Tottenham in January of this year on a free.

After only a few months at White Hart Lane, the 34-year-old was on the move again.

Diakite is no stranger to Hughes either – the player ended last season on loan at Loftus Road.

He didn't make the best of starts, shown a red card on his debut after only 33 minutes of a home derby loss to Fulham.

### READING

New Royals owner Anton Zingarevich had a lot to do with his club signing striker Pavel Pogrebnyak from Stuttgart.

The forward cost Reading a club record £6m after impressing with six goals in 12 Premier League games for Fulham last season.

Five of those came in his first three outings for the Cottagers, including a hat-trick against Wolves.

Fulham boss Martin Jol was obviously keen to sign the Russian full-time, but the presence of Pogrebnyak's countryman, 29-year-old tycoon Zingarevich, helped Reading land the player instead.

The 28-year-old – who played in Euro 2012 for his country – arrives in Berkshire with an impressive pedigree, having played



DANNY GUTHRIE



PAVEL POGREBNIYAK



JAY RODRIGUEZ

# Sparky and Big Premier League



GYLFI SIGURDSSON



JUSSI JAASKELAINEN



CARLOS CUELLAR

Champions League football for Zenit St Petersburg in 2008/09.

Also in 2008 he scored for Zenit as they beat Manchester United to win the European Super Cup.

Reading boss Brian McDermott has also brought in Nottingham Forest winger Garath McCleary and ex-Saints loanee Danny Guthrie.

McCleary, 25, joined on a free

after his contract expired at The City Ground, where the winger ended last season as Forest's top Championship scorer with nine goals – four of them coming in an eye-popping 7-4 win at Leeds.

The player has certainly had a rapid rise – he was playing non-league football for Bromley four years ago!

Saints fans will remember

Guthrie as the young midfielder brought in on loan from Liverpool by George Burley towards the end of the 2006/07 Championship season.

Guthrie later joined Newcastle for £2.5m, having only ever made three sub appearances for Liverpool in the Premier League.

He was let go for nothing by Alan Pardew this summer, after only

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# Premiership Spotlight



BEN FOSTER



SAM ALLARDYCE



MOHAMED DIAME

## Sam heading up recruitment drive



GEORGE MCCARTNEY



JACOB BUTTERFIELD



STEPHEN HENDERSON

being a bit-part player for the Toon following their promotion back to the top flight.

He made 16 league appearances last season, and only 14 the year before.

### STOKE CITY

The Potters' only signing so far is an 18-year-old from Arsenal, Ben Glasgow.

The right-back had only been offered a one-year extension of his scholarship by the Gunners, so chose to sign his first pro deal at the Britannia Stadium instead.

The Essex-born Republic of Ireland Under-19 international was restricted to four Premier Academy League starts last season before injuries ended his campaign.

### SUNDERLAND

Martin O'Neill splashed out £7.8m to sign Spanish centre half Carlos Cuellar for Aston Villa four years ago.

This week he signed him again, and this time for nothing after his Villa Park contract expired.

### SWANSEA CITY

New manager Michael Laudrup

has yet to make any signings.

### TOTTENHAM

Andre Villas-Boas had only been in charge at White Hart Lane a day when Spurs splashed out about £7m to sign Icelandic playmaker Gylfi Sigurdsson from Hoffenheim.

Sigurdsson had made a superb impression in scoring seven goals in 18 games on loan to Swansea last season.

The Swans had agreed a £6.8m deal to sign him permanently prior to Brendan Rodgers leaving for Liverpool.

There was talk Rodgers wanted to take Sigurdsson to Anfield before Tottenham won the battle for his signature.

Sigurdsson made his name in English football with Reading, scoring 21 goals in the 2009/10 Championship season before Hoffenheim signed him for more than £7m.

### WEST BROMWICH ALBION

New manager Steve Clarke made Birmingham goalkeeper Ben Foster his first signing recently when he splashed out £4m to make the player's loan move permanent.

Foster spent the whole of last season on loan at the Hawthorns, while West Brom keeper Boaz Myhill spent the season on loan at Birmingham!

That allowed the Blues to send Saints target Jack Butland on loan to League 2 club Cheltenham.

### WEST HAM

Having lost Rob Green, Sam Allardyce quickly established the need to bring in an experienced goalkeeping replacement.

He could hardly have brought in a more experienced one than Jussi Jaaskelainen, a veteran of 474 appearances for Bolton since his arrival in November 1997 – most of them in the top flight.

Allardyce, of course, worked with the Finnish international during his time in charge at The Reebok.

A legendary figure at Bolton, Jaaskelainen had the chance to stay at the relegated Trotters but turned down a new contract to stay in the Premier League.

Allardyce has added goalkeeping cover as well this summer, by making Stephen Henderson's loan spell from Pompey permanent.

Henderson – 13 years younger than Jaaskelainen at 24 – initially moved to Upton Park on loan last March, though he never played for the Hammers last season.

Left-back George McCartney has also made his loan spell at the club permanent.

McCartney, who turns 32 next month, spent all of last season on loan from Sunderland.

A third new face at Upton Park is Senegalese midfielder Mohamed Diame, who has moved from Wigan Athletic on a free.

Diame has spent the last three years in the top flight after joining the Latics in a £3.3m deal in the summer of 2009.

He made 26 league appearances last term.

### WIGAN ATHLETIC

Manager Roberto Martinez has yet to make any signings.

## Best: We can do 'a Toon'!

LEON Best believes Blackburn can follow the example of Newcastle and bounce back stronger from relegation.

The former Saints striker swapped the prospect of Europa League football with Alan Pardew's rejuvenated Magpies for life in the npower Championship at Rovers in a £3million deal earlier this week.

The Ewood Park outfit ended an 11-season stay in the top flight amid turmoil on and off the pitch last time around.

But Best points to the shining example displayed on Tyneside after Newcastle finished fifth in the Barclays Premier League only two years on from their own brief sojourn in the second tier.

"With Newcastle, I think the season we had in the Championship built us and made us better in the Premier League," said the 25-year-old Republic of Ireland forward.



ward.

"Now I want to do the same thing here. Sometimes you need that wake-up call to go down and build a good squad, go back up and work together."

Best followed former England midfielder Danny Murphy through the doors at Rovers and a productive close season continued this week with the additions of ex-Portugal striker Nuno Gomes and his 19-year-old countryman Fabio Nunes.

"They're unbelievable signings," said Best. "I used to watch Nuno Gomes in the Euros and the World Cup for Portugal and to be playing with him now is unbelievable."

"Obviously Danny Murphy, with the clubs that he's played for – and as I know myself from playing against him last season – is a fantastic player."

That Steve Kean is in place to oversee the recruitment drive has raised eyebrows in some quarters, as his position seemed close to untenable at times last season in the face of supporter fury.

But echoing Murphy's sentiments at his media presentation, Best cited Kean – who coached him during their time together at Coventry – as a key factor in his decision to drop down a level.

"He worked a lot with me at Coventry," he added. "He did extra bits with me that he didn't need to, any time I wanted to do shooting."

"His training gets the players going. You want to be part of it and that's a massive thing."

"I love getting up in the morning and looking forward to training and with Steve I'll definitely be doing that."

**NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL COVERAGE STARTS ON PAGE 10**



# Saints Spotlight

## Football: The big changes

GOAL-LINE technology was this week given the green light by the International FA Board.

While the roots of the game stretch back centuries, modern football was established by the Football Association in 1863 with the first basic rules.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at how football has developed through the big innovations introduced to the game.

**1863.** At an historic meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern in London, not only is the FA founded but so too are the first set of common rules. The Cambridge Rules – produced by undergraduates at Cambridge University in the 1840s – are rewritten to provide the game's first uniform regulations.

**1869.** Goal-kicks are introduced for the first time, with corners following three years later.

**1875.** The crossbar is introduced to replace tape as the means of marking the top of the goal.

**1878.** A referee uses a whistle for the very first time and the first floodlit football match takes place at Bramall Lane, Sheffield.

**1891.** Penalties are awarded for the first time, the goal net is accepted into the laws and the referee is allowed on the field of play.

**1902.** The penalty box and penalty spot are introduced after it was decided penalties would be awarded for fouls committed in an area 18 yards from the goal line and 44 yards wide. The six-yard box was also introduced, although it took another 35 years for the D shape to be brought in.

**1912.** Goalkeepers are prevented from handling the ball outside the penalty area.

**1925.** The offside laws of 1866 – where players are onside provided there are three players between the ball and the goal – are reduced to two players.

**1938.** The Laws of the Game are made over by IFAB member Stanley Rous, who did such a good job that it was not until 1997 that it was revised again.

**1958.** Subs are permitted for the first time, albeit only for an injured goalkeeper and one other injured player.

**1970.** Red and yellow cards are introduced for the 1970 FIFA World Cup in Mexico.

**1990.** The offside law is changed in favour of the attacker, who is now onside if level with the penultimate defender.

**1992.** Goalkeepers are forbidden from handling back-passes from a teammate's foot.

**1994.** The technical area is introduced, with the fourth official following the next year.

## Markus tie brings back memories ...

● **ANDERLECHT'S** visit to Saints next weekend for a Markus Liebherr Memorial Cup tie will bring back memories of the two clubs' European Cup Winners Cup ties in March 1977.

● Saints lost the quarter final first leg 2-0 in Holland with Dutch international Robbie Resenbrink among the scorers.

● Back at The Dell, Saints levelled the aggregate scores through David Peach and Ted MacDougall – only for Franky Van Der Elst to send the visitors through with an 83rd minute consolation.



**SHAKE ON IT:** Saints captain Jim Steele before the first leg. Left and below – Saints fans in Anderlecht.



**SAINTS IN EUROPE:** Players wave to the travelling fans, left, while Saints go on the attack, below.



**GOT A VIEW ON SAINTS? EMAIL [echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk)**



# Saints Spotlight



**GOAL:** Ted MacDougall puts Saints 2-0 up in the second leg at The Dell and, right, celebrates.



● **THE use of goal-line technology was rubber-stamped by the International FA Board this week. Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at the games that might have been different had it been used earlier.**

## Geoff Hurst, England v West Germany, 1966

The most famous was-it-over-the-line goal of all time came in the 1966 World Cup final when Hurst's shot hit the underside of the crossbar and bounced down. Referee Gottfried Dienst was unsure whether it had crossed the line but assistant Tofik Bahramov gave it. England led 3-2 and went on to win 4-2, with Hurst completing his hat-trick. Bahramov earned notoriety as the Russian linesman, although he was actually from Azerbaijan.

## Clive Allen, Coventry v Crystal Palace, 1980

The Crystal Palace striker let fly with a free-kick from 25 yards that arrowed into the top corner. But it hit the stanchion inside the goal and flew straight back out, and both referee and linesman ruled it was not a goal.

## Jonathan Howard, Chesterfield v Middlesbrough, 1997

Third Division Chesterfield went into their FA Cup semi-final clash with Middlesbrough as big underdogs but raced into a 2-0 lead and should have gone 3-1 ahead when Howard's shot hit the bar and clearly bounced over the line. But it was not given and the game ended as a draw, with Boro winning the replay.

## Luis Garcia, Liverpool v Chelsea, 2005

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho coined the term 'ghost goal' after Garcia was adjudged to have forced the ball over the line in their Champions League semi-final. It proved a decisive goal.

## Pedro Mendes, Manchester United v Tottenham, 2005

There looked little danger when Mendes tried a speculative shot from near the half-way line, but Roy Carroll spilled it. The keeper made a desperate lunge to retrieve the ball and ref Mark Clattenburg did not award a goal despite replays showing the ball to be well over the line. The game finished 0-0.

## John Eustace, Watford v Reading, 2008

Eustace's shot went significantly wide of the Reading goal before Noel Hunt hooked it back into play but assistant referee Nigel Bannister flagged for a goal and ref Stuart Attwell awarded it.

## Frank Lampard, England v Germany, 2010

England were trailing Germany 2-1 in the last 16 of the World Cup when Lampard unleashed a shot that hit the underside of the bar and clearly bounced down over the line, but it was not given and Germany won 4-1.

## Clint Hill, Bolton v QPR, 2012

The visitors ruled have gone ahead but the officials ruled Hill's header had not crossed the line before being clawed out by Adam Bogdan. Replays showed the decision to be clearly wrong and Bolton won 2-1.

## Juan Mata, Chelsea v Tottenham 2012

Martin Atkinson awarded Chelsea a goal that put them into a 2-0 lead in the FA Cup semi-final despite Benoit Assou-Ekotto appearing to block the ball on the line. The Blues went on to win 5-1 at Wembley.

**EUROPEAN ACTION:** Saints threaten the Anderlecht goal in the first leg, below, and at The Dell, right.



**SIX PAGES OF NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL START ON PAGE 10**



# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

**Swear and it'll cost**  
NEW Sydenhams League chairman Ian Hoare has pleaded with clubs not to give their money away.

The former Blackfield & Langley chairman has warned that the league will clamp down heavily on indiscipline this season – particularly when it comes to disrepute.

Although Hoare's predecessor Bob Purkiss took flak from some clubs for his 'name and shame' policy, Hoare will see it continues. "You'll never stop swearing, we know that, but you can try and look after it," he told the league's AGM.

"We'll give you one warning, in line with the FA, but if it happens a second time – especially disrepute – you will be up before a commission."

"We've received letters from the FA and the county FA praising us for what we are trying to do, so we must be doing something right."

"I've been a club chairman and I know how hard it is to raise money, so please don't give it away in fines."

**Ticket plan passed**  
THE Sydenhams League's annual dinner-dance should be better attended in future.

After a disappointing turnout for the latest awards night at Southampton's Novotel, a new rule is that each club must purchase four tickets for the end-of-season do.

**Out-going chairman Bob Purkiss lamented:** "This year's event was poorly attended."

"It's not just a dinner-dance, it's also a presentation night, recognising achievements right across the board and I do think it's incumbent on league members to recognise what others have achieved."

**Putting it to the vote, Purkiss's successor Ian Hoare urged club representatives to "bite the bullet" and agree that each club should purchase four tickets out of respect to league sponsors Sydenhams. Seventeen clubs voted against buying four tickets, 14 voted in favour and six voted for buying two. Because 20 had voted in favour of clubs having to purchase tickets, the vote to buy four was carried.**

# Saints first in Arena

**SHOLING'S friendly against Saints under-21s this Tuesday (July 10, 7.30pm) will be played at their newly-christened Silverlake Arena.**

Although the Southern One South & West club continue to be based at the VT Sports Ground in Portsmouth Road, the football section has undergone a change of identity thanks to a three-year sponsorship from Southampton-based company Silverlake Automotive Recycling Ltd.

It means there will now be two non-League grounds in the area bearing the Silverlake title.

Conference South neighbours Eastleigh play at the Silverlake Stadium where Allen Prebble, managing director of Silverlake AR Ltd, has been involved since 2002 and is one of four Spitfires vice-chairmen.

Sholing's new chairman Sean Whelan knows Prebble from his time as sponsor and tannoy announcer at Eastleigh and is delighted Silverlake are backing a second local club.

Not only that, Eastleigh's new owners Bridle Insurance are also showing support for Sholing by putting up five banners at the ground.

"I didn't want it to look as if we were poaching another club's sponsors, so I phoned (Eastleigh owner) Stewart Donald about calling our ground the Silverlake Arena and he was very comfortable with it," said Whelan.

"It's not an easy time financially and for the local football community to get support like that from Silverlake and Bridle is great."

"There are a number of other Eastleigh people who will be supporting Sholing too."

"It's all about helping one another out and being a football family."

While many are cynical of clubs who splash the cash in pursuit of winning titles, Whelan takes an alternative view.

"When people talk about the Premiership they say money is ruining the game, but it all filters down," he said.

"Just look at Bridle. They are footballing people and having them in the local footballing

## Sholing target winger

**SHOLING hope to have another new name in their squad for the start of pre-season.**

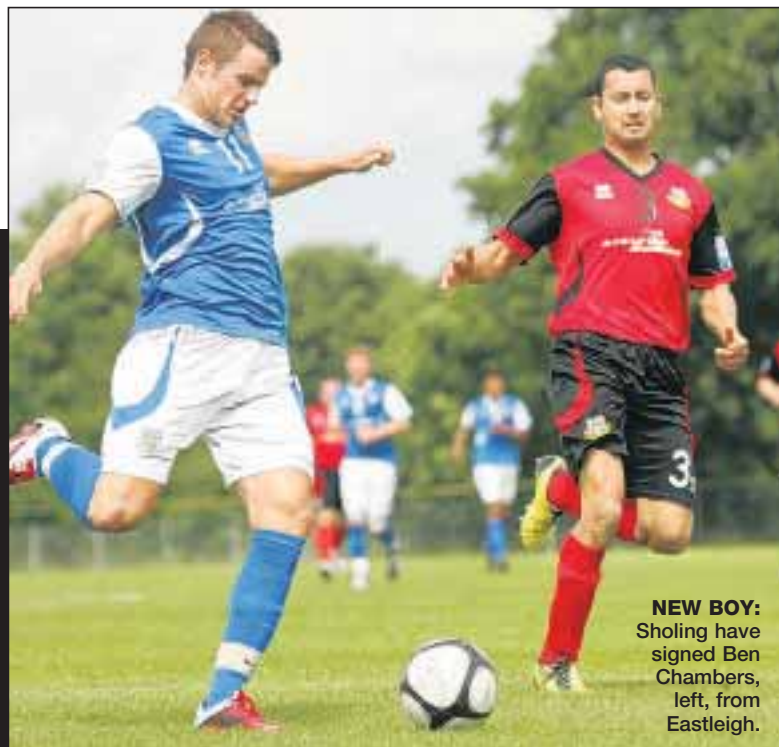
Manager Dave Diaper was this week closing in on the signing of winger John McKie from AFC Totton.

The Isle of Wight-based wideman began last season with Newport IOW but signed for Totton after being recommended to Stags boss Stuart Ritchie.

He made 11 appearances for Totton, mainly off the subs' bench, and is looking to play more regularly next term.

"John was recommended to me and he's trained well with us," said Diaper. "He's very pacy and looks a useful player, but I think he got a bit disillusioned at Totton – you've got to be some player to keep Mike Gosney out of the side."

McKie is a friend of midfielder Iain Seabrook who featured for Sholing in the first part of last season before returning to get



**NEW BOY:**  
Sholing have signed Ben Chambers, left, from Eastleigh.

games with Newport IOW.

"Iain's going to come back over and do some training with us," said Diaper. "What I like about the Island lads is their enthusiasm."

Diaper, who has also signed Eastleigh pair Ben Wilson and Ben Chambers, goalkeeper Matt Brown from Romsey Town and another Islander Scott Sampson from AFC Totton, will get his first chance to see his new-look squad in action on Tuesday (July 10, 7.30pm) when Southampton under-21s come calling.

"Saints are sending a squad of 20, I think, and it's nice that they're recognising clubs in Southampton," said Diaper.

"It's very encouraging for Sholing to have them here and we'd like to make it an annual thing if we can. We've been working for four or five years to get this sort of fixture."

"Including our young contract players, we should have about 28 players available. It's only right that we give the youngsters a run-out and

repay them for their loyalty, but I also want to make sure we give Saints under-21s a decent game and don't make it too easy for them."

It is the first of two local friendlies for Martin Hunter's Saints under-21 side who will visit South & West new boys Winchester City the following Tuesday (July 17).

Entry to the Silverlake Arena on Tuesday will be £8 adults, £5 concessions and free for under-16s if they are accompanied by an adult, who will get in for half-price.

community does us the world of good.

"Their investment at Eastleigh is already filtering down, whether it's five banners at our ground or players who aren't quite ready to make it at Eastleigh who can come to Sholing to develop."

"Bridle are making a difference by putting money into the football community and it's good to see."

Several of Sholing's existing backers are staying on board for next season, notably KAR Contractors Limited who will again be shirt sponsors.

Plans are in the pipeline to get

a new PA system installed to create a better pre-match atmosphere and the 'Sholing Megastore' will be open in time for the first game of the season.

Whelan smiled: "A 20-foot container went in over the weekend, which we've spray-painted Sholing red, and we're going to sell all sorts of club merchandise like umbrellas, pens, wallpaper – even underwear!"

"It's the first thing people will see when they come through the turnstile."

"I got the idea from going to Staines Town. They had the Staines Massive Megastore which was a garden shed!"

## Cherries youth boss

**FORMER Winchester City assistant manager John Donoghue is the new AFC Bournemouth's head of youth.**

Donoghue, Cherries' under-16s boss for two seasons, has taken over the youth reins following Paul Groves's promotion to first-team boss last term.

The 42-year-old spent seven years working with Southampton's academy, including a stint managing the women's team, and had a spell at Winchester City working as right-hand man to Shaun Brooks, who is now Groves' assistant at Dean Court.

**MORE NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL – SEE PAGES 12-15**



# Non-league Football

GE HAMBLE plan to take a leaf out of Christchurch's book and establish themselves as a breeding ground for young talent.

Three of their brightest youngsters – Rickii Sibley, Pip Nolan and reserve team players' player-of-the-year Alex Sheath – will be part of the Planemakers' squad next term as the village club bid to stake their claim for the Sydenhams Premier title.

And co-boss Dave Lewis hopes it will be just the start of a Christchurch-style conveyor belt of home-grown talent.

"We admire the job Christchurch and (manager) Graham Kemp do," said Lewis.

"Over the last three years Kemp has had at

## Planemakers' production line

least two of his best youngsters leave him for Conference South or Southern League clubs and yet the following season they are stronger.

"How they do that is a credit to Graham and the club.

"We too must bring young players through and let the local area know that we're a breeding ground for young talent. If not, we have failed them."

In Lewis's book, the

growing gap between the area's past and present Wessex clubs means the Sydenhams League has an even bigger role to play in youth development.

With Eastleigh now an established Blue Square Bet South force gunning for Conference National football and the likes of AFC Totton, Gosport Borough, Sholing and Winchester City all intent on climbing the pyramid, it makes it tough for all

but the very best youngsters to shine.

"It doesn't help local talent that all the area's Southern League clubs are going for league titles," said Lewis.

"Back in the old days the Farehams and Bashleys were happy for a mid-table finish and that would be the ideal place for youth to flourish," he said. "I remember Dick Semark's old Fareham Town side. They had no budget, rel-

atively speaking, and ran a young side on virtually no money and did well.

"But last season we had Gosport going for (Southern South & West) promotion and it's tough for 18 and 19-year-olds to get into that side.

"It's the same with Eastleigh. If they were happy to be mid-table, then maybe they could bring two or three teenagers in.

"But their remit is to win the league, which makes it extremely hard for young players to break through.

"Everyone used to say there were not enough good local players to have three or four thriving Southern League sides in this area, but now we have. The area's really strong, which is amazing. "But it's just a shame

for the young players that there's not a Southern League or Conference South side whose aspirations are mid-table. They're all going big guns for promotion."

With experienced centre-back Pete Castle leaving Hamble for Southern League new boys Winchester City, young defender Sibley will be pushing hard for a first-team place.

"Some of the local lads impressed last year and players like Rickii, Pip Nolan and Alex Sheath will all be in the first-team squad and they thoroughly deserve to be," said Lewis.

"Players can only learn so much sitting on the bench for a higher league club, so the Wessex League can be a great breeding ground."

## Non-league News

### Wessex no more

Clubs have given their blessing for the word 'Wessex' to be dropped from the Sydenhams League title.

The league's top brass had become concerned that sponsors Sydenhams were not getting the exposure they deserved because people continually refer to the Wessex League.

Last season they tried to address the problem by changing the name to the Sydenhams Football League (Wessex), but still some media outlets (not *The Echo* or *The Pink*, incidentally!) used Wessex rather than Sydenhams.

"We've got the FA's permission to call it the Sydenhams Football League," new chairman Ian Hoare informed the AGM.

Some clubs opposed the proposal to drop the word 'Wessex' and others abstained, but a majority vote in favour was accepted.

### Refs moving up

The Sydenhams League know they have work to do to maintain high refereeing standards after seven men in black were promoted to Level 3 for next season – the highest in the league's history.

Recognising that the magnificent seven of Ben Cobb, Aaron Moody, Andy Dine, Sam Ogles, Tony Foster, Mark Lucie and Casamin Nzenga will be hard acts to follow, out-going chairman Bob Purkiss acknowl-

edged: "It bodes well for the league, but it can cause problems as well because the younger officials coming through are not at the same level of ability.

"But we are working to make sure we get more consistency, especially at assistant level.

"There is a different selection process this term to make sure assistants can match the league standard and we're working on training days. We're not leaving it to chance."

# New boys are no Hamble gamble

**TITLE hopefuls GE Hamble have welcomed in a trio of new signings for the Sydenhams Premier Division campaign.**

Co-manager Dave Lewis has confirmed the arrival of Joe Bye, Liam Crook and Sean Thurgood at Follands Park.

Former AFC Totton midfielder Bye, a Blackfield & Langley player last season, is well on the mend from severe facial injuries suffered after being attacked during a night out in a Portsmouth casino in April.

Left-side midfielder Crook, who began his career with AFC Bournemouth, finished last season with Brockenhurst having previously played for Sholing, Winchester City, Gosport Borough and Lynton Town.

Thurgood, a central midfielder from divisional rivals Hayling is well known to at least two of Hamble's squad, having played at Winchester City with Jamie Musselwhite and Lloyd Webber.

"We do try and target players rather than just get numbers in and all three of these lads have impressed us over the last couple of seasons," said Lewis. "They've all stood out against us and

**Wendy Gee**

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

have been on our radar for some time. We've invariably won more games than we've lost over the last couple of seasons, but each one of these players has caused us problems with their individual attributes and they will all bring different qualities to the squad. We're very happy to have got them as there were lots of other clubs after them."

Bursledon-based Bye was millimetres losing the sight of his right eye when his face was smashed into a glass on a table on a night out at Gunwharf Quays. But the 24-year-old – son of former Bashley defender and New Milton Town boss, Andy – is now ready to help Hamble improve on an encouraging fifth-placed finish last term.

Left-side midfielder Crook, who began his career with AFC Bournemouth, finished last season with Brockenhurst having previously played for Sholing, Winchester City, Gosport Borough and Lynton Town.

Thurgood, a central midfielder from divisional rivals Hayling is well known to at least two of Hamble's squad, having played at Winchester City with Jamie Musselwhite and Lloyd Webber.

"We do try and target players rather than just get numbers in and all three of these lads have impressed us over the last couple of seasons," said Lewis. "They've all stood out against us and

"Joe's up and running and raring to go. He's looked very bright in training," said Lewis. "In him and Liam Crook, we've got two players who've played in the Southern League – Joe with Burgess Hill and Totton and Liam with Gosport. As for Sean Thurgood, he has always stood out whenever we've played Hayling. All the time he was on the pitch, we were never in front against them.

"Sean had a knee injury, which needed an operation, and it was only when he went off in games that we started to make inroads into Hayling. It was no coincidence that they always looked better when he was on the field.

"This time last year we signed Dan Turner from Hayling and he made a massive impact for us last season. I'm sure Sean will do the same."

■ **JOINT manager Paul Hurst is tipping Louie Soares to fly next season in his first full campaign with Blue Square Bet Premier club Grimsby Town.**

■ **The 27-year-old – son of popular former Newport IOW striker Clifton – endured a difficult start to his Blundell Park career following his move from Hayes & Yeading in January.**

■ **The Barbados international didn't score in 11 outings, but Hurst is predicting big things from the Reading-born wideman who spent four years playing for Aldershot Town.**

■ **"He is going to be an important player for us," said Hurst.**

On the debit side, Hamble skipper and midfielder James Roden, is believed to be joining league rivals Fareham Town.

"James was in the same BAT side as me and has given us three great years," said Lewis. "Fareham have got themselves a good player. He's a brilliant lad who will be missed and I wish him all the best. The

door is open if he ever wants to come back."

With their scheduled pre-season friendly at Brockenhurst cancelled, Hamble are looking for new opponents to visit on July 10 and 17. Contact Lewis on 07850183053.



**AARON MOODY**



# Non-league Football

## PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

**Saturday, July 7:** AFC Stoneham v Fleet Town (3.00), Blackfield & Langley v Hythe & Dibden (3.00), Frimley Green v Alresford Town, Sporting BW v Fareham Town (on 3G pitch at Wide Lane, Eastleigh, 3.00), US Portsmouth v GE Hamble (3.00), Winchester City v Havant & Waterlooville (3.00).

**Tuesday, July 10:** AFC Stoneham v Romsey Town (6.30), Blackfield & Langley v AFC Totton (7.45), Devizes v Downton, Hamworthy Utd v Salisbury City, Poole Borough v New Milton Town (7.00), Sholing v SAINTS U21s (7.30), Totton & Eling v Sporting BW (at Wellow).

**Wednesday, July 11:** Sherborne Town v Bournemouth Poppies, Winchester City v Salisbury City (7.45)

**Thursday, July 12:** Moneyfields Res v Fareham Town Res (6.30).

**Friday, July 13:** AFC Stoneham v Hordean Res (7.15), Basingstoke Town v Aldershot Town (7.00), Whitchurch Utd v Fawley AFC.

**Saturday, July 14:** Markus Liebherr Memorial at St Mary's - Saints, Arsenal and Anderlecht. AFC Stoneham v Eastleigh Res (3.00), Alton Town v Aldershot Town, Bashley v Blackfield & Langley (3.00), Braishfield XI v Capital (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Cowes Sports v GE Hamble XI, Dorchester Town v Christchurch (3.00), Havant & Waterlooville v Portsmouth (3.00), QK Southampton v Fareham Town (3.00), Parley Sports v New Milton Town (3.00), Ringwood v GE Hamble XI, Stockbridge v Romsey Town, Swanage v Poole Town (3.00), US Portsmouth v Totton (double fixture, 12.30 and 2.30), Winchester City v Gosport Borough (3pm).

**Tuesday, July 17:** Blackfield & Langley v AFC Stoneham, Hordean v Gosport Borough (7.30), Frome Town v Salisbury City (7.45), Romsey Town v Sholing XI (7.45), Poole Town v Yeovil Town (7.45), Totton & Eling v Eastleigh Res (at West Wellow, 6.30), Winchester Castle v Alresford Town (6.30), Winchester City v SAINTS U21s.

**Wednesday, July 18:** Downton v Amesbury New Milton Town v AFC Bournemouth (7.45).

**Thursday, July 19:** Christchurch v Sholing (7.45), Poole Town v Eastleigh (7.45), Sporting BW v Romsey Town (6.30), Whitchurch Utd v Thatcham Town (Dango Tournament at Andover New Street).

**Friday, July 20:** Hamworthy Utd v Sherborne, Hordean v Eastleigh Res (7.30).

**Saturday, July 21:** AFC Portchester v Poole Town (3.00), AFC Totton v Farnborough (3.00), Alton Town v Wantage (3.00), Arlesey Town v Salisbury City (3.00), Basingstoke Town v Reading XI (3.00), Blackfield & Langley v East Preston (double header, kick-offs to be advised), Braishfield XI v Horton Heath (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Brockenhurst v Wembley (3.00), Chichester City v GE Hamble, Evian Thonon Gaillard v SAINTS (Stade Joseph-Meynat, 7.00 local), Fleet Town v Bashley (3.00), Gillingham Town v Alresford Town, Hamworthy Utd v Badshot Lea New Milton Town v Hamworthy Rec (3.00), Poole Town v Christchurch (3.00), QK Southampton v Fawley AFC, Shepton Mallet v Totton & Eling, Sutton United v Eastleigh (3pm)

**Tuesday, July 24:** AFC Portchester v Gosport Borough, Alton Town v Bracknell, Brackley Town v Salisbury City (7.45), Brockenhurst v Lymington Town, Colden Common v Whitchurch Utd, Eastleigh v Crewe Alexandra (7.45), GE Hamble v Sholing (7.45), Holt Utd v New Milton Town (6.45), Pagham v Fareham Town (7.45), Ringwood Town v Romsey Town, Wantage Town v Alresford Town (7.45), Winchester City v Basingstoke Town (7.45).

**Wednesday, July 25:** Blackfield & Langley v Eastleigh Res (7.45).

**Thursday, July 26:** Colden Common v Romsey Town (6.30).

**Friday, July 27:** AFC Totton v Basingstoke Town (7.45), Bemerton HH v Frome Town, Fawley AFC v Tadley Calvea, GE Hamble v Gosport Borough XI, Poole Town v AFC Bournemouth (7.45).

**Saturday, July 28:** Blackfield & Langley v Sholing XI (3.00), Braishfield XI v West Totton (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Calne Town v Fareham Town (3.00), Chichester City v Alresford Town (3.00), Fareham Town v Camberley Town (3.00), Hamworthy Utd v Hanwell Town, New Milton Town v Pauldon Rovers (2.30), Poole Borough v Totton & Eling, North Leigh v Eastleigh (3.00), SAINTS v Ajax (3.00), Salisbury City v Reading (3.00), Whitchurch Utd v Abingdon, Winchester City v AFC Bournemouth (3.00).

**Monday, July 30:** AFC Portchester v Pagham, Downton v Eastleigh Res (7.45), Fawley AFC v Brockenhurst.

(Cont. on opposite page)

# BAIRD A SHAW BET FOR EASTLEIGH



WAYNE SHAW

**WAYNE Shaw believes Eastleigh boss Ian Baird has "all the tools" to guide the club into the Square Bet Premier.**

The larger-than-life goalkeeper, who returned to Silverlake this week after a four-year absence, knows just what it takes to break into the promotion pack after being part of the Sutton United squad that made the play-off finals last term.

With Sutton's first-choice keeper Kevin Scriven injured, Shaw, 41, rolled back the years by keeping a clean sheet in the Us' 0-0 draw at Welling United in the play-off semi-final second leg.

Unfortunately Sutton paid the price for a home defeat,

## Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

losing out 2-1 on aggregate, and it was Dartford who eventually joined champions Woking in non-League's top flight next term.

Eastleigh finished down in 12th place in what turned out to be a transitional campaign. But, with new owner Stewart Donald of Bridle Insurance pumping big money into the club, the Spitfires have strengthened considerably this summer and made promotion their number one goal.

Shaw, who will double up as goal-keeping coach and number two to 19-year-old ex-Saints keeper Jack Dovey, is the club's eighth summer arrival.

He follows Marvin Williams, Osei Sankofa, Glen

Southam, Dale Binns, Jai Reason, Dovey and Craig McAllister through a busy Silverlake door.

Most of those players already have league titles and promotions behind them and Shaw said: "I think Bairdy's got all the tools to get Eastleigh up."

"It's a matter of fine-tuning the side and getting them over the line."

"It's all about belief."

"The players Bairdy has brought in are all winners and they know what's required of them."

"It looks really exciting at Eastleigh for next season. Speaking to people around the club, they're all behind

what's going on there.

"We've got to hit the ground running and go for it."

The larger than life Shaw was a popular figure at the Silverlake before joining ex-Spitfires boss Paul Doswell at Sutton two-and-a-half years ago.

He helped the Us gain promotion from the Ryman Premier and establish themselves as a Conference South force. But the Surrey club is moving in a different direction and he can no longer be part of it.

"Sutton are going to be training on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings next season and it would have been difficult with travelling and getting back to work," said Shaw, who makes his living at his uncle's ice-cream parlour, Carlo's, in East Wellow.

"It was excellent at Sutton even though it was a long way to go. Dos has done a fantastic job and everybody there, from the fans right through to the committee, are great people."

Eastleigh, though, is not only closer in distance for



IAN BAIRD

WITH Eastleigh's list of summer signings fast approaching double figures, there will be a brand new look to the side next season.

And fans will have the ideal chance to familiarise themselves with the Spitfires' new recruits next weekend when the club host their very first Family Open Day on Saturday, July 14 (10am-2pm).

Supporters can watch an open training session, involving the full first team, and have unlimited access to the Silverlake Stadium.

They will also get the chance to have a photograph taken with the Hampshire FA Senior Cup, which Eastleigh won at St Mary's against AFC Totton in May.

With a large number of local businesses supporting the event, it promises to be a great day out for the whole family with stalls, live music, a bouncy castle, stilt walkers, jugglers, fire eaters, a bungee run, face painting and lots, lots more.

Eastleigh FC Juniors will be

## Spitfires day out

officially launched as the Blue Square Bet South club look to attract the next generation of supporters to the Silverlake. The young guns will have their own training session followed by a match against the first team, which should prove the highlight of the day.

Fans can get in on the action too. The Silverlake Trophy will be up for grabs for the winners of a penalty shootout between the Supporters' Club and five members of the first-team squad.

The Spitfires' new Errea home kit will be unveiled and available for sale in the club shop.

Eastleigh are due to kick off

their pre-season friendly campaign at Poole Town on Thursday, July 19.

They then face Sutton United away on Saturday, July 21 before hosting the first of three big home friendlies on Tuesday, July 24 against Crewe Alexandra (7.45pm).

Trips to Southern One South & West trio North Leigh (July 28), Sholing (July 31) and Winchester City (August 4) follow before they return to the Silverlake to face Oxford United on Tuesday, August 7 (7.45pm) and a Reading XI on Saturday, August 11 (3pm).

● Right: One of the new Eastleigh signings, Jai Reason.



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# Non-league Football



JACK DOVEY

## Duo sign for Hawks

MIDFIELDER Lewis Stockford has followed former AFC Totton boss Stuart Ritchie to Havant & Waterlooville.

The 19-year-old, pictured, had spells on loan with Salisbury City and Totton last term while he was a first-year pro at Portsmouth.

He was released from Fratton Park at the end of the season and has joined Havant on a short-term deal.

Stockford had spent nine years with Portsmouth having started out with their under-11 side.

He failed to make his senior debut for Pompey's first team but played 70 minutes of their 5-1 friendly defeat to Real Betis in Spain last summer.

New Hawks boss Ritchie has also swooped for versatile defender Ed Harris from Dover

Athletic.

Harris, 21, was a regular member of the AFC Wimbledon squad that won promotion to League Two.



He has since been with Dover but informed new manager Nicky Forster that he would not be re-signing due to difficulties travelling from his home in Kingston.

Having escaped relegation by the skin of their teeth last term, Havant will kick off the new campaign at home to Chelmsford City on August 18.

They then face trips to Truro City and Bath City before hosting Ian Baird's promotion-hungry Eastleigh in a mouthwatering Bank Holiday Monday fixture on August 27 (3pm).

## Ormerod makes move to Blue Square

BRETT Ormerod, a member of Saints' FA Cup final team of 2003, has signed for Blue Square Bet Premier club Wrexham on a free transfer.

The 35-year-old was offered new terms by Blackpool, but opted to look elsewhere.

After being released by his

home town club Blackburn Rovers as a youngster, Ormerod rebuilt his career with non-League side Accrington Stanley, before moving on to Blackpool, Saints – where he was a Gordon Strachan signing in 2001, Preston North End and back to Blackpool again.

## Totton offer of tickets

■ AFC TOTTON would like to offer complimentary sets of match tickets to local charities, schools and community groups for use as competition or raffle prizes.

■ The club are making 20 sets of tickets available to such organisations which will allow entry for four persons (value up to £20) to one of their pre-season fixtures.

■ The Stags have lined up an attractive list of friendly matches at the Testwood Stadium in preparation for the new Evo-Stik Premier Division season.

■ They will entertain three Blue Square Bet South sides – Farnborough (Saturday, July 21, 3pm), Basingstoke Town (Friday, July 27, 7.45pm) and Salisbury City (Tuesday, August 7, 7.30pm).

■ Any organisation interested in this offer should apply to the club on official letter-headed paper and include a stamped addressed envelope.

■ Send to: 'Charity Match Tickets, AFC Totton, Testwood Stadium, Salisbury Road, Totton, SO40 2RW.

AFC TOTTON are holding a kids' summer soccer school over three weeks in August.

The first session will run August 13-15, the second August 20-22 and the third August 28-30 – 10am to 3pm daily.

The cost is £20 per day or £50 for three days. Please contact [youth@afctotton.com](mailto:youth@afctotton.com) to register interest and request an application form.

## PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES (Cont. from opposite page)

**Tuesday, July 31:** Basingstoke Town v AFC Bournemouth (7.45), Braishfield XI v FC Wellington (Stoneham Park, 7.00), Downton v Whitchurch Utd, GE Hamble v Colden Common, Poole Town v Salisbury City (7.45), Sholing v Eastleigh (7.45).

**Wednesday, August 1:** Havant & Waterlooville v AFC Bournemouth (7.45)

**Friday, August 3:** Fleet Town v Eastleigh Res (7.45), Salisbury City v Swindon Town (7.45).

**Saturday, August 4:** Basingstoke Town v Brentford (3.00), Braishfield v Hythe Aztecs (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Liphook Utd v Eastleigh Res (4.00), SAINTS v Wolves (3.00), Wimborne Town v AFC Totton (3.00), Winchester City v Eastleigh (3.00).

**Tuesday, August 7:** AFC Totton v Salisbury City (7.30), Bristol City v SAINTS (7.45), Eastleigh v Oxford Utd (7.45), Havant & Waterlooville v Gosport Borough (7.45), Parley Sports v Poole Town (7.00).

**Thursday, August 9:** Braishfield v Conrades (Stoneham Park, 7.00).

**Saturday, August 11:** Chippenham Town v Basingstoke Town (3.00), Bashley v Poole Town (3.00), Braishfield Res v Bitterne Park Hotel (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Eastleigh v Reading XI (3.00), Fleet Town v AFC Totton (3.00), Gosport Borough v Sholing (3.00), SAINTS v Udnese (12.00), Salisbury City v Portsmouth (3.00), Winchester City v Andover Lions (3.00).

**Wednesday, August 15:** GE Hamble Res v Eastleigh Res (7.30).

**Thursday, August 16:** Braishfield Res v BTC Southampton (at Stoneham Park).

**Saturday, August 18:** Broughton v Braishfield (Village Rec, 3.00).

**Tuesday, August 21:** Braishfield v Netley Central Sports (Stoneham Park, 6.30)

**Thursday, August 23:** Braishfield Res v Inmar (Stoneham Park, 6.30)

**Saturday, August 25:** Kings Somborne v Braishfield (Village Rec, 3.00)

**Tuesday, August 28:** Braishfield v Athletic Romsey (Stoneham Park, 6.30)

● To publicise pre-season friendlies email details to [echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk)

## Quick off the mark

HOLDERS Christchurch must make an early start to their defence of the Sydenhams League Cup.

Graham Kemp's side, 3-1 conquerors of Brockenhurst in May's 2011/12 final, are one of ten teams included in the first round draw for next season.

Priory will host an all-Sydenhams Premier tie against Fawley AFC at their Hurn Bridge home.

Beaten finalists Brock do not enter the competition until the second round. John Pyatt's Division One side have been handed a tricky tie away to GE Hamble, who finished fifth in the Sydenhams Premier last term.

Dates for the rounds have yet to be set, but the intention is to get the Cup under way as early as possible to leave the coast clear for the FA Cup and FA Vase.

An earlier start will also provide August games for Division One clubs whose league season does not get under way until September 8.

### SYDENHAMS LEAGUE CUP

**First round:** Christchurch v Fawley AFC, Downton v Alresford Town, Petersfield Town v Whitchurch Utd, Romsey Town v Pewsey Vale, Verwood Town v Hamworthy Utd.

**Second round:** AFC Portchester v Verwood Town or Hamworthy Utd, Alton Town v Romsey Town or Pewsey Vale, Amesbury Town v Bournemouth Poppies, Andover New Street v Stockbridge, Blackfield & Langley v Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Christchurch or Fawley AFC v Horndean, Fareham Town v Hayling Utd, Fleet Spurs v Ringwood Town, GE Hamble v Brockenhurst, Hythe & Dibden v East Cowes Vics, Laverslock & Ford v Team Solent, Moneyfields v Newport IoW, New Milton Town v Downton or Alresford Town, Petersfield or Whitchurch Utd v Lymington Town, Totton & Eling v Tadley Calvea, US Portsmouth v Cowes Sports.

## FIXTURES FOR EASTLEIGH, SALISBURY, BASINGSTOKE AND HAVANT...

### BLUE SQUARE BET SOUTH FIXTURES 2012/13

#### EASTLEIGH

**August**  
18 Boreham Wood (a)  
21 Basingstoke Town (h)  
25 Weston-super-Mare (h)  
27 Havant & Waterlooville (a)

**September**  
1 Dover Athletic (h)  
4 Dorchester Town (a)  
8 Billericay Town (a)  
15 Maidenhead Utd (h)  
29 Hayes & Yeading (h)

**October**  
2 Farnborough (a)  
9 Staines Town (h)  
13 Chelmsford City (a)  
20 Truro City (h)  
27 Eastbourne Borough (a)  
30 Bath City (h)

**November**  
3 Sutton Utd (h)  
17 AFC Hornchurch (a)

**December**  
1 Welling Utd (h)  
8 Dover Athletic (a)  
15 Billericay Town (h)  
22 Weston-super-Mare (a)  
26 Salisbury City (h)  
29 Havant & Waterlooville (h)

**January**  
1 Salisbury City (a)  
5 Bromley (a)  
12 Boreham Wood (h)  
19 Tonbridge Angels (a)  
26 Farnborough (h)

**February**  
2 Sutton Utd (a)  
9 Staines Town (a)  
16 Chelmsford City (h)  
23 Hayes & Yeading (a)

**March**  
2 Eastbourne Borough (h)  
9 Maidenhead Utd (a)  
16 Truro City (a)  
23 Bromley (h)  
30 Basingstoke Town (a)

**April**  
1 Dorchester Town (h)  
6 AFC Hornchurch (h)

13 Bath City (a)  
20 Tonbridge Angels (h)  
27 Welling Utd (a)

#### SALISBURY CITY

**August**  
18 AFC Hornchurch (h)  
21 Tonbridge Angels (a)  
25 Truro City (a)  
27 Farnborough (h)

**September**  
1 Chelmsford City (a)  
4 Bath City (h)  
8 Eastbourne Borough (h)  
15 Hayes & Yeading (a)  
29 Staines Town (a)

**October**  
2 Dorchester Town (h)  
13 Boreham Wood (h)  
20 Dover Athletic (a)  
27 Bromley (a)  
30 Hayes & Yeading (h)

**November**  
3 Maidenhead Utd (h)  
17 Welling Utd (a)

**December**  
1 Maidenhead Utd (a)  
8 Chelmsford City (h)  
15 Eastbourne Borough (a)  
22 Truro City (h)  
26 Eastleigh (a)  
29 Farnborough (h)

**January**  
1 Eastleigh (h)  
5 Sutton Utd (h)  
12 AFC Hornchurch (a)  
19 Staines Town (h)  
26 Boreham Wood (a)

**February**  
2 Bromley (h)  
9 Dorchester Town (a)  
16 Billericay Town (h)  
23 Havant & Waterlooville (a)

**March**  
2 Weston-super-Mare (h)  
9 Basingstoke Town (h)  
16 Weston-super-Mare (a)  
23 Truro City (h)  
30 Tonbridge Angels (h)

**April**  
1 Bath City (a)

6 Welling Utd (h)  
13 Billericay Town (a)  
20 Havant & Waterlooville (h)  
27 Salisbury City (h)

#### BASINGSTOKE TOWN

**August**  
18 Sutton Utd (h)  
21 Eastleigh (a)  
25 Staines Town (a)  
27 Hayes & Yeading (h)

**September**  
1 Tonbridge Angels (a)  
4 Truro City (h)  
8 AFC Hornchurch (h)  
15 Eastbourne Borough (a)  
29 Billericay Town (a)

**October**  
2 Bromley (h)  
13 Havant & Waterlooville (h)  
20 Weston-super-Mare (a)  
27 Dover Athletic (h)  
30 Eastbourne Borough (h)

**November**  
3 Boreham Wood (a)  
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**December**  
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8 Tonbridge Angels (h)  
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22 Staines Town (h)  
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29 Hayes & Yeading (a)

**January**  
1 Farnborough (h)  
5 Bath City (h)  
12 Sutton Utd (a)  
19 Maidenhead Utd (h)  
26 Welling Utd (h)

**February**  
5 Havant & Waterlooville (a)  
9 Bromley (a)  
16 Dorchester Town (h)  
23 Maidenhead Utd (a)

**March**  
2 Billericay (h)  
9 Salisbury City (a)  
16 Weston-super-Mare (h)  
23 Bath City (a)  
30 Eastleigh (h)

**April**  
1 Truro City (a)

6 Dover Athletic (a)  
13 Boreham Wood (h)  
20 Chelmsford City (a)  
27 Salisbury City (h)

#### HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE

**August**  
18 Chelmsford City (h)  
21 Truro City (a)  
25 Bath City (a)  
27 Eastleigh (h)

**September**  
1 Staines Town (a)  
4 Hayes & Yeading (h)  
8 Tonbridge Angels (h)  
15 Sutton Utd (a)  
29 Bromley (a)

**October**  
2 Weston-super-Mare (h)  
13 Basingstoke Town (a)  
20 Farnborough (h)  
27 Billericay Town (a)  
30 Dorchester Town (h)

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17 Weston-super-Mare (a)

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29 Eastleigh (a)

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2 Sutton Utd (h)  
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30 Truro City (h)

**April**  
1 Hayes & Yeading (a)  
6 Maidenhead Utd (a)  
13 Dover Athletic (h)  
20 Salisbury City (a)  
27 Boreham Wood (h)

EMAIL PRE-SEASON FIXTURES TO [echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk)



# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

### New league chief

Bob Purkiss has stood down as chairman of the Sydenhams League after three years at the helm.

He has handed over the role to his deputy Ian Hoare, pictured, former Blackfield & Langley chairman, stepping up from vice-chairman.

New vice-chairman is Nick Spencer, who will double up as commercial officer.

Purkiss remains with the league as race relations and youth protection officer and will take on the new role of development officer.

Paying tribute to his fellow league officers, Purkiss told the AGM: "The league

has come a long way in 26 years.

"I know decision makers are never popular, but I'd like to thank people for the support they have given me in my three years as chairman and three years as vice-chairman.

"Thanks for the abuse as well – that helps too!" he smiled.

Paying tribute to Purkiss, registrations secretary Denis Emery said: "We've not always seen eye to eye, but you have been an asset to this league. You've always done your best for this league."

### Lewis wings in

Lewis Clarke has joined Evo-Stik Southern Premier club Weymouth on a permanent basis after the 18-year-old winger, released by Yeovil Town in May, enjoyed a successful loan spell with the Terras last season.

"Unfortunately things didn't work out as he had hoped in the full-time game with Yeovil, but he now has an opportunity to put himself in the shop window," said Weymouth boss Brendon King. "He did very well for us during his short loan spell here last season and is now at a stage in his career where he needs regular football."

### Fareham hold trial

FAREHAM Town are holding an open trial for players wishing to join their Hampshire Youth League team on Wednesday, July 18 at Cams Alders. Those interested in attending (6.30pm for 7pm start) should contact manager Jason Kennedy on 07733 240805 or at [jkennedy66@ntl-world.com](mailto:jkennedy66@ntl-world.com)

# Purkiss takes a parting shot at FA

**OUT-GOING Sydenhams League chairman Bob Purkiss has accused the Football Association of "chickening out" of proposals to reduce the number of Step 5 leagues from 14 to 12.**

By pushing clubs hard to meet ground grading requirements, the Sydenhams League believed they had placed themselves in a prime position to strengthen their ranks when the proposed Step 5 restructuring took place.

But, following a number of meetings and consultations held with leagues, clubs and county football associations to decide the best way forward, the proposal was deemed "unworkable" by the FA and subsequently scrapped.

Purkiss told clubs at the Sydenhams AGM that he believed the FA had "chickened out" and claimed that other leagues had not

### Wendy Gee

[wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk)

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

worked as hard as the Sydenhams League in pushing for ground grading improvements.

He said: "I know we've been hated by you (the clubs) for having to spend money on ground-grading, but it's been worth it. We are in the top three Step 5/6 leagues nationally.

"But we always knew some other leagues had not done what we have in pushing for ground grading.

"It must be 10 or 12 years ago that these discussions first went on and we said to go down to 12 leagues, expand (each league) a bit and the cost wouldn't be that much different.

"But it hasn't happened.

"We went to Exeter, put all the points to the panel as to why we thought it was a good idea, but now it's been pulled."

Purkiss's views got short shrift from Hampshire FA chairman John Ward, who



BOB PURKISS

sits on the FA Council, the FA Main Board and the National Game Board.

Ward, who accepted the gift of a silver platter from the Sydenhams League to mark the Hampshire FA's 125th anniversary, had not intended to discuss the matter at the Sydenhams AGM.

But he said he felt the need to respond to what he described as Purkiss's "rather disappointing and misguided" comments.

He told club representa-

tives: "The Step 5 review was the widest consultation ever carried out by the FA within the National League System.

"Ground grading was not an issue. We thought it might be, but only a handful of clubs did not pass ground grading.

"The disappointing thing – and you've got to look at yourselves on this – is that only one Wessex League club attended the (consultation) meeting in Yeovil and that was Alton Town.

"Alton's chairman Jim McKell looked pretty lonely there.

"It was the worst attendance of any league in the country and you need to ask yourselves why.

"It certainly sent a message out – and it was probably the wrong message."

Speaking about the decision to abandon the Step 5 restructuring proposals, Ward added: "It wasn't an easy decision, but the FA certainly didn't chicken out."

"We listened to leagues

and clubs and, in the end, the majority view was that we should stay as we were.

"We will do all we can now to work with clubs and build leagues up."

Some Sydenhams clubs said they thought the league would represent them at the FA's regional consultation meeting in Yeovil and that there was no need to attend.

But Ian Hoare, who has succeeded Purkiss as Sydenhams League chairman, reminded the AGM: "We offered to lay on coaches to take you down and no one wanted to go."

Ward did not see eye to eye with Purkiss over the Step 5 proposals, but was delighted to accept the silver platter from the league on behalf of the Hampshire FA.

Purkiss said the HFA's support was "much appreciated" particularly in helping the interchange between the Sydenhams and its feeder leagues.

He added: "We hope that will carry on, particularly in the light of helping Step 7 clubs progress."

## Early kick-off

THE Sydenhams League season will be kicking off early this year – but only for the top flight clubs.

With the extra preliminary round of the FA Cup scheduled for Saturday, August 11, Sydenhams Premier sides will be swinging into action on either Friday, August 3 or Saturday, August 4.

Division One clubs, however, will have to wait until Saturday, September 8 to get the league campaign under way.

That's because the second tier has shrunk to just 16 clubs next term with Brading Town withdrawing for financial reasons and Warminster Town opting for a cost-cutting return to the Western League where they will play more local derbies.

Verwood Town and AFC Porchester, first and second in Division One last season, have been promoted to the top flight. But the Sydenhams Premier is also down on numbers – to 21 – because champions Winchester City have gone up to the Southern League and no one has dropped down to replace them.

Out-going league chairman Bob Purkiss believes the experiences of

Warminster and Brading highlight the difficulties clubs are facing at the lower end of the non-League pyramid.

"It indicates the seriousness of what's happening at Step 6 (eg. Sydenhams One) and Step 7 (eg. Hampshire Premier League) levels and the financial problems people are having," he told the Sydenhams League AGM.

With many feeder league clubs struggling to meet ground grading requirements, Purkiss recommends that ground-sharing – which is not currently permitted by the Sydenhams League – should be looked at.

Purkiss also thinks clubs should learn a lesson from the old Andover FC not to overstretch themselves financially.

The Lions' determination to keep playing Southern League football ended disastrously last summer when the club went under.

"Andover should have come down and regrouped in the Wessex League and they would still be around now," said Purkiss.

And he warned clubs: "Don't go for promotion if you can't afford it."



GLORY BOYS: Winchester City celebrate their promotion.

### SYDENHAMS LEAGUE LINE-UPS 2012/13

**Premier Division:** AFC Portchester, Alresford Town, Alton Town, Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Blackfield & Langley, Bournemouth Poppies, Christchurch, Downton, Fareham Tn, Fawley AFC, GE Hamble, Hamworthy United, Hayling United, Horndean, Lymington Town, Moneyfields, New Milton Town, Newport IoW, Romsey Town,

Totton & Eling, Verwood Town.  
**Division One:** Amesbury Town, Andover New Street, Brockenhurst, Cowes Sports, East Cowes Vics, Fleet Spurs, Hythe & Dibden, Laverstock & Ford, Petersfield Town, Pewsey Vale, Ringwood Town, Stockbridge, Tadley Calvea, Team Solent, US Portsmouth, Whitchurch Utd.



# Non-league Football

## Peckham's fame goes national

A YEAR after being honoured by the Hampshire FA for his services to football, Alf Peckham has gone one better.

The former Sydenhams League chairman received a national Football Association award at the league's 2012 AGM to mark 50 outstanding years in football.

Handing over the award, FA board member John Ward, chairman of the Hampshire FA, recalled how Peckham had finished playing football in 1956 and become manager and treasurer of Totton Old Boys.

A year later a new club made up of Totton College students was formed which Peckham, pictured, took from the New Forest League into the Southampton Junior League.



That team changed its name to Totton Athletic and in 1975 amalgamated with Totton FC, who were about to fold. That marked the birth of AFC Totton where Peckham served as chairman from 1977 to 1989.

In 1986, Totton-based Peckham joined the inaugural Wessex League committee. He took over as chairman in 1989 and has been an active member ever since, now serving as executive vice-president.

Saluting Peckham's services to the game, Ward told him: "This is not a chore, this is an absolute pleasure," I appreciate that through your hard work there is a good relationship between the league and the county FA."

Peckham said the launch of the Wessex League was not just about him, but also about men like Jack Barter, Cyril Hurlock, Ted Walters, Norman Cook and Bob Rose, who had all played their part in making it a league to be proud of.

"Over the years everyone has pulled together," he said. "But this league is a clubs' league and always has been. The day that stops is the day this league is finished."

## Igoe coming in for Claridge

ALEX PIKE has drafted another vastly experienced ex-Pompey star into his Gosport Borough squad following Steve Claridge's decision to hang up his boots.

Midfielder Sammy Igoe, who has more 500 professional appearances under his belt with Pompey, Reading, Swindon, Bristol Rovers and AFC Bournemouth, is one of three players to have been recruited to the Privett Park ranks this week.

The 36-year-old joins Pike's newly-promoted Evo-Stik Southern Premier side from Conference South neighbours Havant

& Waterlooville for whom he made 32 league and cup starts last term.

Igoe is joined at Gosport by another ex-Hawk, 6ft 3in striker Chamal Fenelon from Horndean, and 25-year-old midfielder James Coutts, who arrives from AFC Totton.

Having left Weymouth following their relegation in 2009, Coutts played for Newport County and Dorchester Town before joining the Stags at the start of last season. The ex-AFC Bournemouth player made 25 appearances in all competitions for Totton, scoring six goals.



## Darnton joins the team at Verwood

ANDY Darnton has joined the management team at Sydenhams Premier Division newcomers Verwood Town.

The Division One champions needed someone with higher level experience and Darnton, pictured in his playing days, fitted the bill to become first-team coach.

The former Bashley skipper and central defender has 500-plus Southern League games under his belt plus coaching and managerial experience with the likes of Bashley and Andover.

Last season he was coach of Romsey Town, working alongside Wayne Mew and Stuart Long as the Bypass club finished eighth in the Sydenhams Premier.

"Verwood are looking to push on next season and they

came across really well when I spoke to them," said Southampton-based Darnton.

"I'd never met the manager, Adie Arnold, but he's a nice guy and the chairman's a good guy too.

"They seem a really friendly club and they needed someone from a higher level to give them a new approach.

"I don't know any of their players, but they must be decent or they wouldn't have won the league.

"I'm told they're keeping that squad together and with, one or two additions, we'll be looking to take the club to the next level."



## Non-league News

### Lee looks Chipper

Ex-Eastleigh loanee Lee Phillips is aiming to free Chippenham Town to the Evo-Stik Southern Premier Division title.

The 31-year-old former Plymouth, Cambridge United, Rushden & Diamonds and Torquay striker, pictured, has joined the Bluebirds from Bath City.

He had spell on loan with Eastleigh towards the end of last season, starting three Blue Square Bet South games for Ian Baird's team and making four appearances off the bench.

"I had a chance to go to a few Conference Premier clubs and a few teams in the Blue Square North and South got in contact," said Phillips.

"But Chippenham is not far from where I live in Cirencester, so I went over for a chat and was pleased with what Rudgey (manager Nathan Rudge) said.

"He sold the club to me and he sold what he wants to do."



### Joint effort at QK

Daniel Mannion and Stuart Saint have taken over as under-18 managers at QK Southampton.

Trials will be held at QK's Lordshill Recreation Ground home on Wednesday, July 11 (7-8.30pm) and the team are looking for friendlies at the end of August.

Contact Saint on 07894 996988 or email stuart-saint@sky.com

### Ed's a new Rover

Former Salisbury City loanee Ed Asafu-Adjaye has joined Forest Green Rovers ahead of the new Blue Square Bet Premier season.

The 23-year-old, pictured, arrives at the New Lawn from Luton Town, for whom he made 13 appearances last season before being released.

Asafu-Adjaye spent five years at Kenilworth Road, including loan spells with Salisbury, Walton & Hersham and Histon.



# Lions in a Puma hunt

**NEW Andover Lions boss Paul George has set his sights on promotion to the Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League.**

The phoenix club, formed last July from the ashes of the old Andover FC, consolidated in the Magnata Care Hampshire League 2004 last term but did not quite finish high enough (fourth) to be considered for promotion.

Now they face a truncated 2012/13 campaign with the 2004 league having welcomed in Lyndhurst and Forest Town – but lost Portsmouth Royal Navy, Botley Village, Fair Oak and Horndean United.

George, though, believes a reduced fixture list may yet work in the Lions' favour.



"Many of the players I have in mind will be looking to play on Sundays, so the shortened fixture list could be a benefit, although it is imperative the club moves upwards," said George, pictured.

"Of course I am disappointed there are only 20 league games but, with cup matches added, there won't be too many spare Saturdays."

George is no stranger to Andover football, having

played more than 50 times for the old Lions.

And another well-known face is expected to become part of the set-up with ex-Andover, Downton and Bemerton frontman Danny Sullivan agreeing to play and help out with training.

It is hoped that a number of others with Portway Stadium connections will also get on board. Training begins on the Middle Wallop army pitches on Monday, July 16.

George has already nailed down a friendly at Southern League new boys Winchester City on Saturday, August 11 and is hoping for at least four other pre-season run-outs against Wessex sides. All friendlies will have to be played away from home as Lions' Charlton ground is not yet available.

● **EVO-STIK South & West** club Wimborne Town need a reserve team physio for next season. The role will suit a trainee wanting to gain experience. For further details contact the Magpies' reserve team manager Ed Taylor on 07799 444172.

● **SUTTON United** have secured a five-figure investment from Southampton-based Paris Smith Solicitors to take over as the club's main shirts sponsors next season from A Plant. The Blue Square Bet South club are managed by former Eastleigh boss Paul Doswell.

● **YOUNG** striker Dan Fitchett has signed up again for Salisbury City for new Blue Square Bet South season. The 21-year-old former Wycombe Wanderers trainee helped Whites to a great FA Cup run and a strong finish to the league season last term.

● **ANDOVER New Street** boss Phil Andrews has secured his first batch of signings for the new Sydenhams One season – Mark Anderson, Dave Tasker and Cray Sams – following the club's first training session at Saxon Fields.



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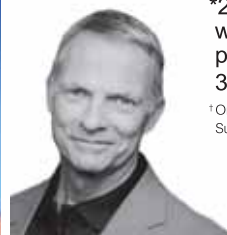
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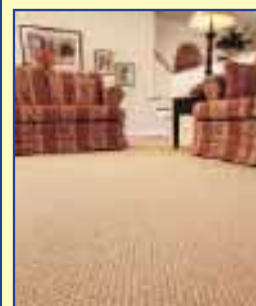
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# LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



## HISTORY OF GB MEDALS IN POST-WAR OLYMPICS

### 2008 (Beijing)

Gold	19
Silver	13
Bronze	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>
Fourth overall	
1st China (100 medals)	

### 2004 (Athens)

Gold	9
Silver	9
Bronze	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>
10th overall	
1st USA (103)	

### 2000 (Sydney)

Gold	11
Silver	10
Bronze	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>
10th overall	
1st USA (92)	

### 1996 (Atlanta)

Gold	1
Silver	8
Bronze	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
36th overall	
1st USA (101)	

### 1992 (Barcelona)

Gold	5
Silver	3
Bronze	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
13th overall	
1st USA (108)	

### 1988 (Seoul)

Gold	5
Silver	10
Bronze	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>
9th overall	
1st Soviet Union (132)	

### 1984 (Los Angeles)

Gold	5
Silver	11
Bronze	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>
5th overall	
1st USA (174)	

### 1980 (Moscow)

Gold	5
Silver	7
Bronze	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>
7th overall	
1st Soviet Union (195)	

### 1976 (Montreal)

Gold	3
Silver	5
Bronze	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>
11th overall	
1st Soviet Union (125)	

### 1972 (Munich)

Gold	4
Silver	5
Bronze	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>
10th overall	
1st Soviet Union (99)	

# Wicks: It's all been worth it

**TWO years of sacrifices and tears became worth it for south coast volleyball star Lucy Wicks this week as she and her GB team-mates received their Olympic kit.**

The 12 women selected by head coach Audrey Cooper were at the Team GB holding camp in Loughborough, where they were decked out in all manner of branded items.

Such luxuries have been rare for the squad over recent years, who have essentially had to pay their own way to the Games after their funding was slashed entirely.

When the news was delivered two years ago they were faced with a tough decision; give up or carry on with a training programme at their own cost.

The latter prevailed, jobs were quit and homes were sold, while fundraising efforts continue to this day.

But, with their opening Olympic fixture now coming very much into view, former Parkstone Grammar School pupil Wicks, who lives in Poole, is surer than ever that she and the rest of the squad made the right decision.

"It's a fantastic feeling, when the squad was announced there was such a sense of pride and this just adds to it," she said.

"The journey so far has been emotional, one of ups and downs, but to now stand in GB kit is phenomenal.

"To think that when the funding was cut we wondered if it was all worth it; it is.

"When that moment came, we knew that even if we raised the money, the British Olympic Association still had to say whether or not we were credible to perform, so there were a lot of ifs.

"But we have fought the whole way, raised the money, the BOA said we were good enough and now we will do

**JUMPING FOR JOY:**  
Poole's Lucy Wicks in action.



the country proud."

It was over a number of late-night Skype conversations that the squad formed their battle plan to survive and, with local businesses in their Sheffield training base on-hand to offer support, they have made ends meet.

Captain Lynne Beattie has been at the forefront of all their money-raising initiatives, and insists she never doubted the resilience of her team-mates.

"When we found out about the funding news it was a devastating moment," she said.

"But Audrey got us together and said: 'Do you want to carry on?'"

"We thought about it for a split-second and then we realised we had worked too hard to achieve our dream to just walk away.

"We found a way and here we are, part of Team GB. To be here, and part of the tournament, it's all been worth it."

Wicks, 30, who plays professionally for Alemannia Aachen in the German Bundesliga, added: "There were some tough decisions to be made by the governing body.

"There was no way they could keep us all happy.

Having no funding was actually a positive in many ways because we have had to fight so hard to get here and we really came together.

"We are such a strong unit for that."

Wicks is not the only former member of the Poole-based Wessex Volleyball Club preparing for London 2012.

Former Poole Grammar pupil Dan Hunter has been named in the men's 12 for the Games.

Hunter is one of Great Britain's finest back-court players and plies his trade in Holland for Landstede after progressing through the ranks at National League club Wessex.

**PARALYPIAN STAR COMES TO WINCHESTER - SEE PAGES 26/27**





# LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



## A CAPITAL GAIN ...

### Simon Carter

simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS EDITOR

**BRITAIN'S athletes have been set a target of 48 medals at the London Olympics – just one more than in Beijing.**

But UK Sport insist as many as 70 medals could be won by the host team.

UK Sport, which distributes Lottery and public money to Olympic sports, said the 'goal' is for Team GB to maintain the fourth place in the medal table achieved four years ago.

A medal range of between 40 and 70 medals means that the target of 48 is fairly unambitious – with somewhere in the mid-50s a probable outcome.

Other forecasts have pointed to Britain winning above 60 medals, but UK Sport insisted they are not trying to downplay expectations.

UK Sport chief executive Liz Nicholl said: "The target is at least 48 medals – because that's more than we achieved in Beijing. That's our target and our commitment is to do better than we did in Beijing."

She admitted that if Team GB failed to do better than Beijing and were close to the bottom of the predicted range, that would be a sign of failure.

Nicholl added: "If it was 40 medals we would be incredibly disappointed, the system will have underperformed if we achieve 40 medals."

"The number of medals is more important to us than coming fourth in the medals table."

"The top of the range is what is possible but not probable, and that is the same for the bottom."

"At least 48 medals sits very comfortably within that range."

Olympics minister Hugh Robertson added: "If we did not achieve the target we would want to understand why and where it went wrong."

"The majority of people will not judge the success of this by how smoothly the transport system runs but where we finish in the medal table."

"British high performance sport is in a very good place indeed but it falls to me to put a health warning on all of this – do not forget there are tiny fractions of a second between success and failure."

The official Olympics medal table is calculated by the number of golds won – Britain won 19 in Beijing, a significant proportion of the total – so that would need to be at least matched in London to maintain fourth spot.

The goal of fourth place is a reflection of the transformation of British Olympic sport from the days of Atlanta in 1996 when only one gold was won, and even the improvements in Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 when Team GB fin-



**MEDAL CHANCE:**  
Winchester's Rob Moore, right.

## UK Sport medal target confirmed

**UK Sport have confirmed medal targets for the British team at London 2012 and for each sport.**

The target for the British team is to maintain the fourth place finish achieved in Beijing four years ago when 47 medals were won in 11 different sports.

The overall medals target range set for this summer is 40-70 and the aim is to achieve at least 48 medals in total from at least 12 different sports.

That includes one or two medals in the hockey, featuring Southampton's Alex Danson in the women's squad and

Winchester's Rob Moore in the men's.

Here, the *Sports Pink* analyses the medals target range set for each sport.

**CYCLING** - Beijing (14 medals).

London target range (6-10).

**SAILING** - Beijing (6). London target range (3-5).

**ROWING** - Beijing (6). London target range (6).

**SWIMMING** - Beijing (6). London target range (5-7).

**ATHLETICS** - Beijing (4). London target range (5-8).

**CANOE/KAYAK** - Beijing (3). London target range (3-4).

**BOXING** - Beijing (3). London target range (3-5).

**EQUESTRIAN** - Beijing (2). London target range (3-4).

**MODERN PENTATHLON** - Beijing (1). London target range (1-2).

**GYMNASTICS** - Beijing (1). London target range (1-2).

**TAEKWONDO** - Beijing (1).

London target range (1-3).

**TRIATHLON** - Beijing (0). London target range (1-2).

**HOCKEY** - Beijing (0). London target range (1-2).

**DIVING** - Beijing (0). London target range (1-3).

ished tenth in the medal table.

The ambition of finishing fourth in London was first announced in 2006 and achieved four years ahead of schedule in Beijing.

UK Sport chairman Sue Campbell insisted that finishing fourth again was "very realistic" despite recent warnings from British Olympic Association chairman Colin Moynihan that it will be "incredibly tough" to hold off the challenge of Australia and Germany.

Robertson is confident enough, however, to bet his Australian counterpart Kate Lundy that Britain will win more golds.

If he wins, she will have to row down the Eton Dorney lake in a Team GB top; if he loses, Robertson will have to play hockey in Australia House wearing an Australia shirt.

UK Sport have also set a target that at least 12 sports should win a medal compared to 11 in Beijing.

In London 20 sports are targeting medals compared to 14 in Beijing.

It will be less easy for some sports to replicate the 2008 success.

Cycling won 14 medals, including eight golds, in Beijing but changes to the events means that will not be possible this time around.

Football is also not included in the medal targets as London is a one-off Games for the British men's and women's teams, both of whom have a decent chance of a medal.

### 1968 (Mexico)

Gold	.....5
Silver	.....5
Bronze	.....3
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....13</b>
13th overall	
1st USA (107)	

### 1964 (Tokyo)

Gold	.....4
Silver	.....9
Bronze	.....2
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....15</b>
9th overall	
1st Soviet Union (96)	

### 1960 (Rome)

Gold	.....2
Silver	.....6
Bronze	.....12
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....20</b>
8th overall	
1st Soviet Union (103)	

### 1956 (Melbourne)

Gold	.....5
Silver	.....7
Bronze	.....9
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....21</b>
6th overall	
1st Soviet Union (98)	

### 1952 (Helsinki)

Gold	.....1
Silver	.....2
Bronze	.....8
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....11</b>
12th overall	
1st USA (76)	

### 1948 (London)

Gold	.....4
Silver	.....16
Bronze	.....7
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....27</b>
6th overall	
1st USA (84)	

### 1936 (Germany)

Gold	.....4
Silver	.....7
Bronze	.....3
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....14</b>
12th overall	
1st Germany (101)	

### 1932 (Los Angeles)

Gold	.....4
Silver	.....7
Bronze	.....5
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....16</b>
8th overall	
1st USA (103)	

### 1928 (Netherlands)

Gold	.....4
Silver	.....11
Bronze	.....7
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....22</b>
7th overall	
1st USA (56)	

### 1924 (Paris)

Gold	.....9
Silver	.....14
Bronze	.....12
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....35</b>
4th overall	
1st USA (99)	

### 1920 (Belgium)

Gold	.....14
Silver	.....16
Bronze	.....13
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....43</b>
3rd overall	
1st USA (94)	

### 1912 (Sweden)

Gold	.....10
Silver	.....15
Bronze	.....16
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....41</b>
3rd overall	
1st Sweden (65)	

**FOUR-PAGE OLYMPIC FOOTBALL SPECIAL STARTS ON PAGE 22**





# LONDON 2012 OLYM

**Next week the Olympic torch comes to Hampshire, including an appearance at Saints' St Mary's stadium ...**



**DAY 1:** Lymington's three-time Olympic gold medalist Ben Ainslie starts the Olympic torch relay.



**DAY 10:** An RNLI lifeboat crew helps Elen Evens carry the Olympic flame across the Menai Strait.



**DAY 11:** Chris Bonington holds the torch aloft at the top of Mount Snowdon.



**DAY 22:** Blair Marquis holds the torch aloft as the Olympic relay reaches Loch Ness.



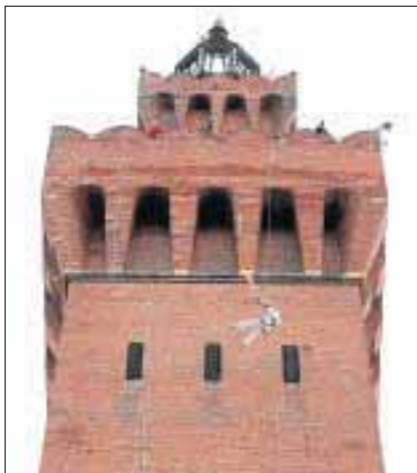
**DAY 26:** Torch bearer Dennis May with the Olympic flame on a boat at the Falkirk Wheel in Falkirk.



**DAY 32:** Princess Beatrice welcomes torch bearer Janet Baker to the steps of Harewood House near Leeds.



**DAY 39:** Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson, who was wounded in Afghanistan, carries the flame through his home town of Doncaster.



**DAY 40:** Alan Ellinson abseiling down the side of the Royal Dock Tower in Grimsby.



**DAY 40:** Starr Halley holds the Olympic flame on Skegness beach.





# OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



**... here, the Sports Pink takes a pictorial look at some of the places the iconic torch has visited so far, and those that have carried it ...**



**DAY 13:** Comedian John Bishop brings the Olympic flame down from the University of Manchester's Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire.



**DAY 14:** Kimberley Cooper and Grand National winner Neptune Collognes parade the flame at Aintree Racecourse.



**DAY 19:** John and Edward Grimes (aka Jedward) parade the flame through the streets of Dublin in typically hair-raising fashion.



**DAY 36:** Alice Kelly holding the Olympic flame at Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club in Lancashire.



**DAY 37:** Victoria Brier poses with the Olympic torch with the statue of Eric Morecambe in Morecambe.



**DAY 38:** Ian Tippen carries the Olympic flame onto the outfield of Headingley Cricket Ground in Yorkshire.



**DAY 44 :** Peter Watt and Camilla Hadland perform a Torch handover in front of Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon.



**DAY 45 :** Triathlete Tom Don carries the torch in Coventry City's home ground.



**DAY 48 :** Caroline Emeny carries the flame in front of beach huts on Southwold beach.





# LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



## GB OLYMPIC FOOTBALL SQUAD

### JACK BUTLAND (Birmingham)

Born: 10/3/1993

The only player in England's European Championship squad to be given special dispensation for the Olympics. Has starred as England Under-21s' number one for the past year. Total league apps: 24. Last season's apps: 24 (On loan to Cheltenham)

### JASON STEELE (Middlesbrough)

Born: 18/8/1990

Butland's understudy at England Under-21 level. Established himself as Middlesbrough's first-choice goalkeeper last season. Total league apps: 82. Last season's apps: 13 (On loan at Northampton)

### MICAH RICHARDS (Manchester City)

Born: 24/6/1988

Picked ahead of David Beckham as the third over-age player despite snubbing chance to be on standby for England's Euro 2012 squad. Total league apps: 155 (15). Goals: 12. Last season's apps: 38. Goals: 1

### CRAIG DAWSON (West Brom)

Born: 6/5/1990

Has made a real name for himself at under-21 level as a goalscoring centre-back but yet to firmly establish himself at West Brom. Total league apps: 90 (5). Goals: 19. Last season's apps: 12 (1 goal)

### JAMES TOMKINS (West Ham)

Born: 29/3/1989

A regular in under-21 squads, Tomkins is also a regular at the heart of West Ham's defence and was key to their Barclays Premier League



JACK BUTLAND

return.

Total league apps: 103 (8). Goals: 6. Last seasons apps: 47. Goals: 4

### STEVEN CAULKER (Tottenham)

Born: 29/12/1991

Centre-back impressed on loan at Swansea last season and has a handful of England Under-21 caps. But only one appearance for parent club Tottenham. Total league apps: 99. Goals: 2. Last season's apps: 26

### RYAN BERTRAND (Chelsea)

Born: 5/8/1989

Shot to fame by becoming the first player to make his Champions League debut in the final itself. The left-back is seen as the successor to Ashley Cole. Total league apps: 150 (3). Goals: 1. Last seasons apps: 15

### NEIL TAYLOR (Swansea)

Born: 7/2/1989

Wales left-back, who can also play in midfield and has been part of Swansea's remarkable rise. Total league apps: 118 (20). Goals: 3. Last season's apps: 43

### RYAN GIGGS (Manchester United)

Born: 29/11/1973

Legendary midfielder who will cap his career with the major international tournament he so richly deserves. **Cont on facing page**

# Saints ace steps up another rung on international ladder

**OLYMPIAN Jack Cork will add another impressive international feather to his cap when he represents Great Britain at London 2012.**

The Saints midfielder was selected this week for the 18-man Team GB squad that will be going for gold on home soil.

At the age of 23, Cork already has a wealth of international experience behind him, having represented England at every age group from under-16 through to the under-21s.

Upon his inclusion, Cork declared: "So proud and honoured to be selected for such a special competition."

*It is perhaps no surprise, though, that Cork will be pulling on the British shirt this summer.*

He has long been highly thought of by Team GB manager Stuart Pearce, who has capped him 13 times for the England Under-21 side.

And, with Saints last season, Cork arguably turned in the best campaign of his career – playing in all 46 league matches, as Nigel Adkins' men won promotion to the top flight.

Cork has always had football in his blood.

He was born in Carshalton on June 25, 1989 – the son of former Wimbledon player Alan Cork, who was an FA Cup winner the year before his son was born when the Dons famously triumphed over Liverpool.

Cork Jr did not take long to find his way into a professional club, being snapped up by Chelsea before he was ten.

His relationship with his father has stood him in good stead ever since.

"I speak to him nearly every day and he gives me little words of advice," Cork has previously said.

"He watches as many games as he can and tries to tell me where and what I can improve on."

## Gordon Simpson

gordon.simpson@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS REPORTER



Oddly, despite all his international recognition at youth level and the fact he remained at Stamford Bridge until 2011, Cork never made a first-team appearance for the Blues.

Instead, the early years of his professional career were spent either playing in the Chelsea reserve team or being farmed out on loan.

Bournemouth and Scunthorpe, where he worked under Adkins, were the first clubs to take him.

In 2008, he then arrived at St Mary's.

The *Daily Echo* archives will tell you that, on his first day, he was billed as 'the new Alan Hansen' – presumably for his playing capabilities, rather than his punditry skills.

Then manager Jan Poortvliet said: "Chelsea think he is their new centre half and they call him the new Alan Hansen, but we will see."

Of course, Cork never became Chelsea's new anything.

Instead, he was Southampton's new everything – a centre half, a right back and a midfielder.

Search through Cork's early career and you will find him described as any one of those, depending on what publication you read.

Like his career at Chelsea, Cork's position never seemed settled.

He left Saints midway through the 2008/09 season to join up with Watford, who were then under the guidance of new Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers.

Rodgers knew Cork from their days together with the Chelsea reserve team.

Spells at Coventry and Burnley then followed, before Cork finally broke free from his transient life and found

himself a more permanent home, signing a four-year contract at St Mary's last summer.

"This is a big part of my life now in moving away from Chelsea and to feel part of a club like I do here is really nice," he said.

His position on the pitch had also become settled by this time, establishing himself as a tenacious, classy and accurate midfielder.

Just seven career goals suggests he is not the finished article yet.

Time remains on his side, though.

One downside of Cork's Olympic selection is that he will miss most, and possibly all, of Saints' pre-season schedule.

But this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the player, and he will hardly be kicking his heels over the coming weeks.

He certainly won't be regretting the chance to represent Great Britain – particularly if he heads back to St Mary's with a gold medal draped around his neck.



**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE OLYMPICS IN THE ECHO AND PINK**





# LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



## Cork kicks off gold bid at Old Trafford

### JACK Cork and his Great Britain football team colleagues play three qualifying group games at the London Olympics.

GB open their first Olympic programme since 1960 against Senegal at Old Trafford on Thursday, July 26.

Stuart Pearce's men then take on the United Arab Emirates at Wembley three days later before closing against Uruguay at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on Wednesday, August 1.

The first match by a Great Britain men's team for 41 years will be an Olympic warm-up game against Brazil at Middlesbrough on July 20.

It will be part of a double-header at the Riverside Stadium with Team GB women's team, coached by Hope Powell, facing Sweden.

A Great Britain team last played an international in an Olympic qualifier against Bulgaria in 1971.

#### Olympic Men's football schedule

##### Group A

Thurs July 26 (Old Trafford)  
UAE v Uruguay,  
Great Britain v Senegal

Sunday July 29 (Wembley)  
Senegal v Uruguay, Great Britain v UAE

Wed August 1 (Coventry)  
Senegal v UAE

Wed August 1 (Millennium Stadium)  
Great Britain v Uruguay

##### Group B

26 (Newcastle)  
Mexico v Korea,  
Gabon v  
Switzerland

Sunday, July 29 (Coventry)  
Mexico v Gabon, Korea Republic v

##### Switzerland

Wed August 1 (Millennium Stadium)  
Mexico v Switzerland

Wed August 1 (Millennium Stadium)  
Korea Republic v Gabon

##### Group C

Thurs July 26 (Coventry)  
Belarus v New Zealand

Thurs July 26 (Millennium Stadium)  
Brazil v Egypt

Sun July 29 (Old Trafford)  
Brazil v Belarus, Egypt v New Zealand

Wed August 1 (Glasgow)  
Egypt v Belarus

Wed August 1 (Newcastle)  
Brazil v New Zealand

##### Group D

Thurs July 26 (Glasgow)  
Spain v Japan, Honduras v Morocco

Sunday, July 29 (Newcastle)  
Spain v Honduras, Japan v Morocco

Wed August 1 (Coventry)  
Spain v Honduras

Wed August 1 (Old Trafford)  
Spain v Morocco

##### Quarter-Finals (Sat August 4)

Qf1: Group D winner v Group C Runner-up  
Qf2: Group B winner v Group A Runner-up  
Qf3: Group C winner v Group D Runner-up  
Qf4: Group A Winner v Group B Runner-up

##### Semi-Finals

SF1 Tuesday August 7 (Wembley)  
Quarter Final 1 Winner v Quarter Final 2 Winner  
SF2 Tuesday August 7 (Old Trafford)  
Quarter final 3 Winner v Quarter final 4 Winner

##### Bronze Medal Match

Friday August 10 (Millennium Stadium)  
Semi Final 1 Loser v Semi Final 2 Loser

##### Gold Medal Match

Saturday August 11 (Wembley)  
Semi-Final 1 Winner v Semi Final 2 Winner

Total league apps: 539 (101). Goals: 112  
Last season's apps: 33 (4 goals)

#### AARON RAMSEY (Arsenal)

Born: 26/12/1990

Like Giggs, the Arsenal midfielder and current Wales captain is good enough to star on the biggest stage. Who is to say whether he will get another chance with Wales?

Total league apps: 59 (36). Goals: 8  
Last season's apps: 50 (5 goals).

#### TOM CLEVERLEY (Manchester United)

Born: 12/8/1989

Has appeared jinxed when it comes to making his England debut after being forced to pull out of more than one squad. Midfielder could be a key to Team GB's chances.

Total apps: 67(16). Goals: 17  
Last season's apps: 15

#### JOE ALLEN (Swansea)

Born: 14/3/1990

Wales midfielder who has been central to Swansea's much-feted passing game.

Totals apps: 95 (34). Goals 8  
Last season's apps: 44

#### JACK CORK (Southampton)

Born: 25/6/1989

Midfielder failed to make the grade at Chelsea but was key in Saints' Premier League promotion.

Total apps: 182 (19). Goals: 6  
Least seasons apps: 49



SCOTT SINCLAIR

#### DANNY ROSE (Tottenham)

Born: 2/7/1990

Has struggled to kick on from a stunning goal on his Premier League debut against Arsenal. But his explosive pace will give GB another option out wide.

Totals apps: 28. Goals: 1  
Last seasons apps: 20

#### SCOTT SINCLAIR (Swansea)

Born: 25/3/1989

Another who has flourished after being let go by Chelsea. Can play up front and out wide and is another quickie who also has an eye for a goal.

Total apps: 106 (45). Goals: 33  
Last season's apps: 40 (8 goals)

#### CRAIG BELLAMY (Liverpool)

Born: 13/7/1979

The final over-age player and fifth Welshman in the squad, Bellamy still has pace to burn at 32 and is a tireless front-runner and good finisher.

Total apps: 347. Goals: 129  
Last season's apps: 43 (10 goals)

#### DANIEL STURRIDGE (Chelsea)

Born: 1/9/1989

Blew his chance of getting into England's Euro 2012 squad with a poor second half to the season. But is arguably the most skilful English player of his generation.

Total apps 46(43). Goals: 25  
Last season's apps: 45 (13 goals)

#### MARVIN SORELL (Bolton)

Probably the biggest surprise in the squad but has impressed up front for England Under-21s and was good enough for Watford to persuade Bolton to buy him in January.

Total apps: 57 (27). Goals: 22  
Last season's apps: 32 (10 goals)

GOING FOR GOLD: Saints midfielder Jack Cork.





# LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



## Football at the summer Olympics

### 2008 (Beijing)

Argentina 1 Nigeria 0  
Bronze: Brazil  
**Top scorer:** 4 – Giuseppe Rossi (Italy)

### 2004 (Athens)

Argentina 1 Paraguay 0  
Bronze: Italy  
**Top scorer:** 8 – Carlos Tevez (Argentina)

### 2000 (Sydney)

Cameroon 2 Spain 2 (5-2 on penalties)  
Bronze: Chile  
**Top scorer:** 6 – Sun Wen (China)

### 1996 (Atlanta)

Nigeria 3 Argentina 2  
Bronze: Brazil  
**Top scorer:** 6 – Hernan Crespo (Argentina), Bebeto (Brazil)

### 1992 (Barcelona)

Spain 3 Poland 2  
Bronze: Ghana  
**Top scorer:** 7 – Andrzej Juskowiak (Poland)

### 1988 (Seoul)

Soviet Union 2 Brazil 1  
Bronze: West Germany  
**Top scorer:** 7 – Romario (Brazil)

### 1984 (Los Angeles)

France 2 Brazil 0  
Bronze: Yugoslavia  
**Top scorer:** 5 – Daniel Xuereb (France), Borislav Cvetkovic (Yugoslavia), Stjepan Deveric (Yugoslavia)

### 1980 (Moscow)

Czechoslovakia 1 East Germany 0  
Bronze: Soviet Union  
**Top scorer:** 5 – Sergey Andreyev (Soviet Union)

### 1976 (Montreal)

East Germany 3 Poland 1  
Bronze: Soviet Union  
**Top scorer:** 6 – Andrzej Szarmach (Poland)

### 1972 (Munich)

Poland 2 Hungary 1  
Bronze: Soviet Union & East Germany  
**Top scorer:** 9 – Kazimierz Deyna (Poland)

### 1968 (Mexico)

Hungary 4 Bulgaria 1  
Bronze: Japan  
**Top scorer:** 7 – Kunishige Kamamoto (Japan)

### 1964 (Tokyo)

Hungary 3 Czechoslovakia 0  
Bronze: Germany  
**Top scorer:** 12 – Ferenc Bene (Hungary)

### 1960 (Rome)

Yugoslavia 3 Denmark 1  
Bronze: Hungary  
**Top scorer:** 8 – Harald Nielsen (Denmark)

Continued on facing page ...

# Messi, Tevez and Arthur Knight ...!

**A FORMER Hampshire county cricketer has something in common with global names such as Lionel Messi and Carlos Tevez.**

All three have won an Olympic gold medal in men's football.

Arthur Knight, a former Pompey defender, is the only Hampshire sportsman to win Olympic gold as a member of Great Britain's football team. Saints midfielder Jack Cork, therefore, will be aiming to follow in Knight's trailblazing footsteps.

Born in Surrey, Knight's job in insurance took him to Portsmouth in 1908, aged 21.

Knight played all three games as GB won Olympic gold at the 1912 Games in Stockholm and he also played at the 1920 Olympics.

## All-rounder

He made 36 appearances for Pompey at left-back, captaining the side that won the Southern League Championship in 1920.

Knight won 30 international caps for England's amateur side and one full England cap, in 1920.

A talented all-round sportsman, he played four games for Hampshire as a top-order batsman from 1913-23.

Knight never played more than one game a season but

**OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST:** Pompey striker Kanu won the tournament with Nigeria in 1996.



## Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

twice captained a Hampshire side including greats like Phil Mead, George Brown and Alec Kennedy.

However, his Hampshire

record – 41 runs at 5.8 – is pretty poor.

Later, he played football for Corinthians and in 1931 he stepped out of the crowd at Fratton Park to run the line when the referee did not turn up, generously donating his match fee to the Royal Hospital.

He died, aged 68, on March 10, 1956.

The Olympics have certainly come a long way since Knight's day.

For so long, the GB squad contained purely amateur players drawn from the non league ranks.

Now Stuart Pearce's squad will boast men rated in the £10m-plus category.

The games should all be competitive, which certainly wasn't the case when London first hosted the Olympics in 1908.

GB won gold,

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# LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



**OLYMPIC WINNERS:** Manchester City's Carlos Tevez, above, and Hampshire cricketer Arthur Knight, right.



beating Denmark in the final.

In their semi final Denmark had caned France A 17-1 – yes, seventeen-one – and earlier in the tournament GB had thrashed Sweden 12-1.

Denmark also beat France B 9-0 in a qualifying round match!

The games weren't exactly crowd-pullers either, with only 1,000 watching the Danes trounce the French in the last four at White City.

The final, like every other game in the tournament, was also held at White City – remember, Wembley wasn't built until 1923 – and about 6,000 watched GB beat Denmark 2-0.

In 1948, when London next hosted the Games, Matt Busby managed the GB side to fourth overall.

Football matches were played at a variety of southern grounds, and certainly not all

were in London.

Pompey's Fratton Park and Brighton's Goldstone Ground were used, alongside the likes of White Hart Lane, Highbury, Selhurst Park, Griffin Park Craven Cottage.

Two non-league grounds were also used – Ilford's Lynn Road Stadium and Walthamstow's Green Pond Lane.

## Innocent times

Ilford hosted France's game against India which attracted a 17,000-plus crowd – at a non-league venue!

One interesting addition to this game is that not all the Indian players actually wore boots!

Busby's squad were again virtually all drawn from the non-league scene, with players from Bromley, Walton & Hershaw and Enfield all selected.

Busby even chose players who

were turning out for Welsh non-league clubs Pembroke Borough and Troedyrhiw.

From those far more innocent times comes the reality of recent Olympic football tournaments as the place to see future global stars.

Argentina have won the last two competitions, in Athens and Beijing.

Manchester City's Tevez was top scorer in Athens eight years ago while Messi played a starring role when the south Americans retained their title in 2008.

Prior to that, Pompey's Kanu and ex-Bolton star Jay-Jay Okacha helped Nigeria to the crown in 1996.

That was the first time an African nation had ever won the football tournament at the Olympics.

But the feat was repeated four years later in Sydney when Cameroon lifted the silverware.

## 1956 (Melbourne)

Soviet Union 1 Yugoslavia 0  
Bronze: Belgium  
Top scorer: 4 – Todor Veselinovic (Yugoslavia), Dimitar Milanov (Bulgaria), Neville D'Souza (India)

## 1952 (Helsinki)

Hungary 2 Yugoslavia 0  
Bronze: Sweden  
Top scorer: 7 – Rajko Mitic (Yugoslavia), Branko Zebec (Yugoslavia)

## 1948 (London)

Sweden 3 Yugoslavia 1  
Bronze: Denmark  
Top scorer: 7 – John Hansen (Denmark), Gunnar Nordahl (Sweden)

## 1936 (Berlin)

Italy 2 Austria 1  
Bronze: Norway  
Top scorer: 7 – Annibale Frossi (Italy)

## 1932 (USA)

Football did not feature at this Olympics

## 1928 (Netherlands)

Uruguay 2 Argentina 1  
Bronze: Italy  
Top scorer: 8 – Domingo Tarasconi (Argentina)

## 1924 (Paris)

Uruguay 3 Switzerland 0  
Bronze: Sweden  
Top scorer: 8 – Pedro Petrone (Uruguay)

## 1920 (Brussels)

Belgium was awarded the gold medal by default after Czechoslovakia walked off the field in the 40th minute of the final when Czech left-back Karel Steiner was sent off. The Czechs were thrown out of the tournament and Spain, who had lost to Belgium in the semi-final, awarded the silver medal  
Bronze: Netherlands  
Top scorer: 7 – Herbert Karlsson (Sweden)

## 1912 (Stockholm)

Great Britain 4 Denmark 2  
Bronze: Netherlands  
Top scorer: Gottfried Fuchs (10) Germany

**Fuchs' ten goals were, remarkably, all scored in the same game – Germany's 16-0 victory over Russia in a consolation tournament held for first and second round losers!**

## 1908 (London)

Great Britain 2 Denmark 0  
Bronze: Netherlands  
Top scorer: 11 – Sophas Nielson (Denmark)

## 1904 (USA)

Canada 2 USA 0  
Bronze: USA B  
Top scorers: 3 – Alexander Hall (Canada), Tom Taylor (Canada)

## 1900 (Paris)

England 4 France 0  
Bronze: Belgium

**TURN TO PAGES 32-33 FOR HAMPSHIRE CRICKET**





# LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



## Kings' School gets into Olympic spirit

WITH less than a month until the start of 'the greatest show on earth' that is the London 2012 Olympics, staff and pupils at Kings' School in Winchester marked their incredible event with their own Olympic themed week.

Head of PE Ally Birch wrote this report for the Sports Pink ...

Motivated by the National School's Sports Week and World Sports Day, the entire school was transformed into a near shrine to all things Olympic, including flags and bunting from around the world in addition to a huge red, white and blue balloon arch that spanned the school's 400m athletics track.

The traditional curriculum was turned on its head for the whole week with pupils following Olympic-themed lessons on the Monday and Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday a number of pupils had the opportunity to meet Olympic double sculls rower Sarah Winckless.

"A truly motivational speaker, the pupils were wowed by her Olympic bronze from 2004, her World Championship medals from 2005 and 2006 and, of course, her Olympic



**SPECIAL GUEST:** Sarah Winckless with some Kings' School pupils.

tracksuits.

Now working for the British Olympic Committee, she also shared the iconic torch that she will bear as the part of the relay.

As has been a tradition now for a number of years, Wednesday witnessed the whole school sports day with over 1,300 pupils competing across track, field and adapted Paralympian style events.

The individual disciplines were co-ordinated and managed by the whole school staff and a number of records tumbled as pupils were even more motivated by the prospect of being an event winner in the year of a home Olympics.

Ex-pupil Wayne Bridge's 400m record did, however, survive by the narrowest of margins - as did Hampshire hopeful 1,500m runner Stuart McCallum.

In the build up to National School Sports week, the staff at Kings' have in combination been running 2012 laps of the 400m track and swimming 2012 lengths of the 25m pool to set an excellent example about the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle to the pupils.

Continued on facing page

**AS London 2012 edges ever nearer, one former medal-winning Paralympian has shared his absorbing life story with a group of Hampshire schoolchildren.**

Sinclair Thomas, 43, suffered a huge setback in his life as a car accident left him in a wheelchair from the age of ten, **writes TOM CROCKER.**

But he refused to let that hold him back.

More than 30 years later, Thomas is now set to travel to his fourth Paralympic Games with two wheelchair basketball medals already to his name.

He picked up bronze as a player in Athens, before coaching Great Britain to the same success in Beijing four years later.

On a visit to Kings' School in Winchester, Thomas said: "I know the crash but I don't remember anything after or going through the window or anything like that.

"It's weird how your brain somehow just blocks it out.

"I came back (to sport) straight away.

"It's easier when you're at that age because you're a kid really.

"When you're 19 or 20 and you have had all those teenage years it is really difficult because you have known something different.

"I don't really remember anything from being nine, eight or seven so it hasn't been any different for me being in the chair.

"It was very difficult when I visited hospitals and visited guys in their late 20s who had to come to terms with being in wheelchair because they think their life is over."

Although he focuses almost solely on the positives, Thomas, a lifelong Liverpool fan, admits it took him a while to come to terms with not being able to play football anymore.

"I played football with my mates (before the crash) and that was probably the strangest thing because then I couldn't play," he recalled.

"I still used to go and watch with them but then when I was at school I played in goal because that was one of the places I could go without having to be outfield.

"My friends helped a lot because they didn't treat me any different to any other kid.

"They just treated me exactly the same."

Thomas explained to the pupils at Kings' School, as part of their Olympiad Week, how he chose basketball ahead of swimming

## Paralympian inspires



**ALL SMILES:** Sinclair Thomas with Kings' School pupils.

during rehab from his accident.

Before he knew it, he was selected for the GB Juniors.

His first Paralympics arrived in 2000. After an arduous 29-hour trip to Sydney where USA netted a last gasp, long range winner to take bronze from

Britain, Thomas said it "took the team almost two years to recover".

The bronze medal did arrive, though, in Athens, in what turned out to be the last Paralympics Thomas played in following his decision to retire in 2007.

He explained: "When I

first became a Great Britain basketball player my dreams were to be a Paralympian, and then to win a medal.

"In 2000 I became a Paralympian so then my next goal was to win a medal. In 2004 I won the medal and I just lost moti-

vation after that because what more dreams can I have?

"People say 'what about a gold medal?' but I don't think I would ever get that feeling winning a gold as I did winning my first medal because it's a very elitist club.

"There aren't many people who have won Paralympic medals or Olympic medals so by winning that (bronze in 2004) it didn't matter what colour it was.

"It could've been green, orange or whatever!

"Just winning a medal made me lose motivation for playing."

His attention then switched to coaching.

After the GB head coach fell ill, Thomas was promoted from assistant coach to main coach for the Beijing Paralympics in 2008.

And things got off to the perfect start even before the tournament began as Thomas was able to welcome his newborn baby into the world just hours before heading off to Asia where, again, GB won bronze.

"I much prefer playing but winning bronze as a

**SPORTS STORY TO TELL? CALL SPORTS EDITOR SIMON CARTER**





# LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



## pupils with life story



coach was a very proud moment a year into my professional coaching career," he explained.

"I'm not sure a lot of people thought I could bring the medal home. They probably thought 'Oh, he's only a young coach, he's new into the job, he'll probably fail' but I didn't fail."

"I don't know how!"

"Me and my other assistant coach are still trying to work that out, but we did it."

Living in a small town in Shropshire, Thomas admits that his basketball success has brought about some new-found fame in the area.

"It is a bit of fame because I now live in Newport which only has one Olympic and a Paralympian. I'm the Paralympian that won medals so when I came home I was switching on Christmas lights and all crazy things like that which I've never done before," he laughed.

"I'm quite proud because whenever people come and see your medal they're just stunned because they're never going to see one again."

"It (the fame) doesn't last



ABOVE AND TOP: Kings' School pupils who took part in the Olympic-themed week.

forever but it is really exciting."

And Thomas is now preparing to fulfil another one of his dreams – being part of the Paralympics in his own country.

Speaking of Team GB's chances this summer, the assistant coach said: "We'll

have to take it one step at a time."

"Get through the group stages and then the quarter finals are probably one of the toughest to get through because, if you go out there, there is no chance of a medal."

"If you get through to the

semi-final at least you are going to have two cracks at a medal."

"Our hopes are to win the gold medal but it will be a hell of a journey to win it."

"We are going to need a bit of luck along the way but we are capable of winning the gold."

Thomas also hopes that the popularity of wheelchair basketball can thrive following the coverage of this year's Paralympics.

"These London 2012 Paralympics will raise a lot of awareness because it has moved from BBC to Channel 4 and they have really gone crazy with it because that is their biggest event of the year."

"Basketball is probably one of the biggest Paralympic sports in Europe."

"In England we've got amateur leagues with over 1,000 members and probably over 100 teams, but there are professional leagues in Europe."

"So if you get really good at it in England you've got a chance of making a long career in Europe playing basketball."

### What are Kings' School pupils' thoughts ahead of the London Olympics?

#### Thomas Owusu-Brew, 12 –

"It's going to be amazing. My favourite sport is football but Usain Bolt is the best one at the Olympics."

#### Toby Cooke, 16 –

"I'm really looking forward to the hockey and the cycling. Some of the cyclists such as Chris Hoy might do well and the women's hockey team is looking very strong."

#### Becka Phillips, 16 –

"I'm probably most looking forward to the hockey as it's my main sport, but also the running and gymnastics."

#### Hollie Walker, 12 –

"My favourite is probably the rowing because it's quite a competitive sport."

#### Cameron Frost, 12 –

"I'm looking forward to javelin, hockey and basketball, and we might do well at swimming."

#### Daniel Jelliffe, 16 –

"My favourites sports are hockey, along with cycling. I've got a couple of tickets to see the hockey and I'm also going to Cardiff to see some football, that should be pretty good. I'm looking forward to it."

#### Joe Mabey, 12 –

"I'm really looking forward to the Olympics. I quite like the athletics, Jessica Ennis is quite good."

#### Issy Buchanan, 11 –

"My favourite Olympic sport is athletics probably and our best runner is Mo Farah."

#### Katie Butcher, 12 –

"My favourite sport is swimming because I swim a lot. Rebecca Adlington has a good chance of winning."

#### Keegan O'Regan, 11 –

"The running is going to be good because Usain Bolt is the fastest person, so it will be quite hard to beat him."

The staff have truly risen to this challenge and maths teacher Richard Nicholls, himself a keen member at Winchester Athletics club, has alone managed 400 laps.

In a never before witnessed mass effort, 68 staff completed another lap each to rapturous applause from the gathered pupils at the conclusion of a memorable day of track and field.

Thursday witnessed the first of two Olympiad Legacy days held at the school and another inspirational speaker.

This time it was the turn of Paralympian Sinclair Thomas who won a bronze medal in the wheelchair basketball as a player in Athens in 2004 and has been the assistant coach to the men's wheelchair basketball team through Beijing and into London 2012.

Across the course of the day, he conducted four speeches, each to over 350 staff and pupils and spoke at length about his experiences in sport and life in general.

This was very moving for all as they gained a firsthand account of the challenges that Paralympians in particular face and the immense commitment and sacrifice needed to be successful.

Also across the two final days the pupils did some investigative work on current British Olympians, com-



### STILL THE RECORD HOLDER: Wayne Bridge.

pleted an Olympic Time Capsule, to be opened by another class in four years' time, and completed some Olympian fitness tests.

Amidst all of this was, of course, the opportunity to take part in some Olympic and Paralympic sports, so the pupils tried their hands at handball, volleyball, hockey, blind football, boccia, biathlon, swimming, tennis, rhythmic gymnastics, basketball, shooting, softball, badminton and trampolining.

With such a wealth of sports to try, and laced with such inspiring sports stories from real Olympians, there is little doubt that the spirit of the Olympic games was truly engaged.

It will go some way towards fostering a legacy and enthusiasm for sport that London 2012 so desperately wants to achieve.

On this theme it was fitting that many Year 11 pupils who have finished their GCSE examinations and left the school volunteered their time freely to be involved in the delivery of skills and the officiating of competitions across all days.

Whilst reflecting on the Kings' Olympic week, head teacher, Susan Lawrence, said "this has been a truly exceptional week."

"To have all staff and pupils actively engaged, working together and exuding enjoyment has been an absolute pleasure."

"We have been inspired, motivated, challenged excited and exhausted. I cannot think of a better Olympic legacy than that."



SOUTHERN  
**Daily Echo**

# FIND THE BALL



## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

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**F**IND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

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Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

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The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

### RESULTS



**CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES**  
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or **Sunday 15 July**  
2012

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Mrs D Cox, Bournemouth, Dorset  
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**Daily Echo**



# Adam Rant



This week's big talking points  
with **Adam Leitch**

IT was fantastic to see a world title fight in Southampton last weekend – and a victory for the city.

All right, the belt was a version of a world title, but it was sanctioned by the WBO who are one of the most respected organisations in boxing.

And King Davidson, the victor, is originally from Nigeria and has only been calling Southampton his home for less than a year now.

But, nonetheless, it is a pretty decent sporting event taking place

## Belting success

in the city and for that we should all be grateful.

It was also a fitting first belt for the Millbank gym and their trainer, Wayne Batten, who works tire-

lessly for his fighters.

Hopefully this will be the launch pad for big things for the stable.

King's belt really has given them something to build from and with other talented lads there as well this could be the beginning of something really special.

That's if they get the support they need from the Southampton sporting public, who should remember there is more to the city than just Saints and Hampshire Cricket.



CHAMP: King Davidson.

## Viewing pleasure

THE glitz and glamour of the Premier League seems very real when the Sky TV dates are announced.

It's one of the things you don't immediately think of with promotion.

These days the headlines are inevitably about the amounts of money involved as they are so vast.

Then the secondary consideration is whether there might be some big name signings arriving.

Then the thought is of the opposition and the likes of Manchester United, Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal rolling into town.

But one upside for many fans is definitely the increased coverage.

Saints already have four live televised games confirmed before the end of November.

Add to that *Match of the Day* and *Football First* on Sky and, all of a sudden, there is a chance for every fan to see far more of the side than has ever been possible before.

*Football First* actually shows an hour of every single game.

That is as extensive as you could wish without actually buying a ticket to a game.

Welcome to the Premier League.

## Gunner be trouble

THE decision of Robin Van Persie not to sign a new contract is a hammer blow for Arsenal.

It was utterly predictable, but the Dutchman wanting to win things and not seeing that would be possible at the Emirates is a damning condemnation of things there.

Arsenal have, as always, been very respectful about the decision publicly, and privately may even feel it could be about money.

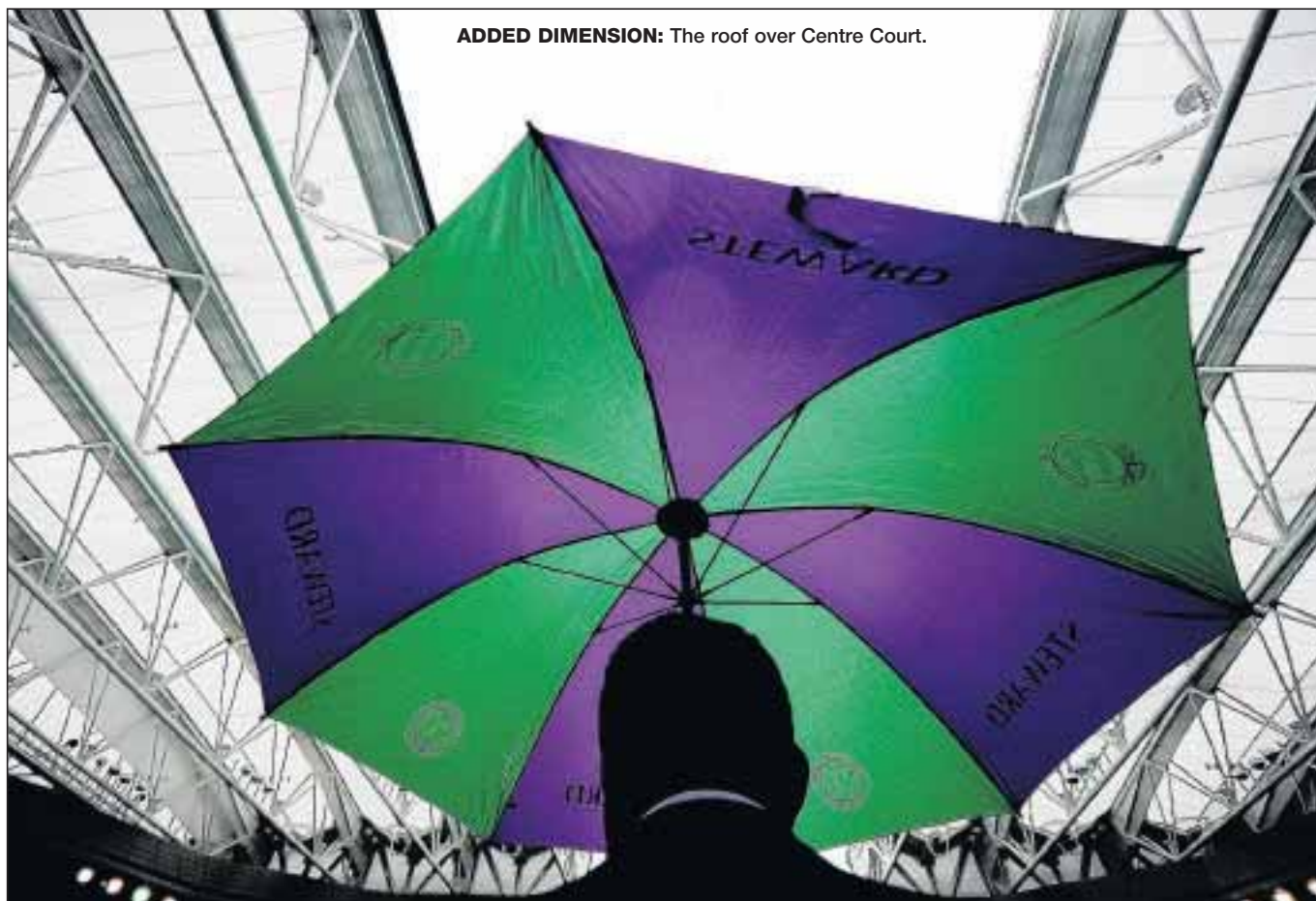
But Van Persie, above, could surely have earned a fortune by staying at Arsenal anyway so perhaps his reasons are perfectly genuine.

His statement that he doesn't feel his ambitions are matched is worrying for Arsenal fans to hear.

Perhaps it underlines that the Gunners are once more going into a season hoping that things are going their way, rather than genuinely believing it.



ADDED DIMENSION: The roof over Centre Court.



**DESPITE all the rain, or maybe because of it, it has been a wonderful Wimbledon.**

But the All England Club need to have a serious think about the future of this great tournament.

Wimbledon is known as being a bastion of tradition – the lack of sponsorship, the traditional whites, the formality of it all.

There is much to be admired about that in this day and age.

But that doesn't mean to say it shouldn't move with the times in other regards.

Tennis is an entertainment business and, although Wimbledon may want to avoid the razzmatazz that accompanies so many sporting events these days, it does still need to make sure it gives the people what they want.

Traditionally the tournament has been a daytime outdoor event.

However, the addition of the roof on centre court has given it a new, added dimension, the likes of which they clearly hadn't reckoned on.

Based on the evidence of what has happened over the past fortnight, it seems that the All England Club initially thought of the roof as merely a way of continuing the day-

## Late nights have raised the roof ...

time games while the rain was falling. As it has turned out, though, it is much more than that because the floodlighting inside it allows matches to be played in the evening when previously the light would have been too bad.

The games that have run into the evenings have been marvellous spectacles.

The crowd there clearly love it and, just as importantly, it is drawing in more fans at home.

As wonderful as Wimbledon is,

with the middle Sunday being a day off, the majority of workers in the country who head out to work during the daytimes, Monday-Friday, can't see any tennis.

The only people who can watch it consistently are the out of work or those who have booked leave specifically for it.

The evening matches have changed that, got other people involved in the tournament and, without doubt, raised the interest level even higher once more.

That is a really great thing, yet it is something the All England Club don't seem to have come to terms with.

Early in the second week they had a chance to move one of the rain-affected quarter-finals on to Centre Court under the roof to get it played in the evening, but they baulked at the idea.

The statement they issued was a little strange and seemed to amount to telling people they had had enough late nights recently.

They should be striving for these late nights, not trying to fend them off.

Wimbledon has an 11pm curfew anyway, so it is never going to be like the US Open where there is a proper evening session and matches have been known to trundle well into the early hours.

All right, it is a fine balancing act, and nobody wants to see Wimbledon sell out and lose any of its tradition, pomp and ceremony.

But there is a chance here to really make the most of their roof and add an extra element to the tournament.

Done properly that is not tradition wrecking, it is progress. And progress in this case would be a very good thing for everybody concerned.



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# Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



## RESULTS/FIXTURES

### APRIL

**12-15 Gloucestershire, home, LVCC –**  
Gloucs 314 (D Balcombe 8-71) & 174 (D Balcombe 3-48, H Riazuddin 3-51), Hampshire 199 (S Katich 74) & 256 (M Bates 87, C Wood 65). **Hampshire lost by 33 runs.**

**19-22 Glamorgan, SWALEC, LVCC –**  
Glamorgan 103-9 dec (D Balcombe 5-33) & 256 (H Riazuddin 5-61), Hampshire 156 (L Dawson 32) & 204-8 (S Ervine 75, J Vince 28). **Hampshire won by 2 wickets.**

**26-29 Leicestershire, h, LVCC –**  
Leics 234 (L Dawson 5-29), Hampshire 217-4 (M Carberry 84no, S Katich 54, S Ervine 41no). **Drawn**

### MAY

**2-5 Northants, Northampton, LVCC**  
Northants 218 (C Wood 4-52) & 232-9 (C Wood 3-58, D Balcombe 3-70), Hampshire 154 (J Vince 46no) & 179 (M Carberry 61). **Hampshire lost by 117 runs.**

**7 Glamorgan, h, CB40**  
Glamorgan 173-7 (K Ali 3-44), Hampshire 151-2 (J Vince 83, M Carberry 60). **Hampshire won on DL Method.**

**9-12 Derbyshire, h, LVCC**  
Hampshire 352-8 dec (J Adams 122, B Shafayat 93), Derbyshire 403-9 dec (K Ali 3-60, J Tomlinson 3-101). **Drawn**

**16-19 Yorkshire, Headingley, LVCC**  
Hampshire 427 (S Katich 196, M Bates 103, S Ervine 44) & 191-2 dec (S Katich 61no, M Carberry 61no, J Adams 49), Yorkshire 399-9 dec (L Dawson 3-61). **Drawn**

**20 Scotland, Uddingston, CB40**  
Hampshire 220 (M Carberry 76), Scotland 131 (K Ali 2-17, D Briggs 2-31). **Hampshire won by 89 runs.**

**23-26 Glamorgan, h, LVCC**  
Hampshire 316 (S Ervine 109, J Adams 42, M Bates 41) & 273 (J Adams 72, J Vince 48), Glamorgan 327 (D Balcombe 4-91) & 231 (K Ali 3-42, J Tomlinson 3-45). **Hampshire won by 31 runs.**

**27 Somerset, Taunton, CB40**  
Somerset 212-9, Hampshire 216-1 (M Carberry 103no, J Adams 56, J Vince 44no). **Hampshire won by 9 wickets.**

**31 Nottinghamshire (F), h, CB40**  
Notts 277-4, Hampshire 265 (S Ervine 68, M Carberry 54, J Adams 51, D Mascarenhas 48). **Hampshire lost by 12 runs.**

### JUNE

**3 Surrey, KIA Oval, CB40**  
Surrey 76-1, match abandoned.

**4 Scotland, h, CB40**  
Scotland 230-9 (D Briggs 3-35), Hampshire 234-4 (M Carberry 148no). **Hampshire won by 6 wickets.**

**6-9 Kent, Tunbridge Wells, LVCC**  
Hampshire 303-8 (L Dawson 134no, S Katich 54), Kent 220-6. **Drawn**

**14 Sussex, Hove, FLT20**  
Abandoned, no result

**19 Middlesex (F), h, FLT20**  
Hampshire 157-6 (J Vince 64no), Middlesex 161-4. **Hampshire lost by 6 wickets.**

**22 Kent, h, FLT20**  
Kent 151-5, Hampshire 148-6. **Hampshire lost by 3 runs.**

**24 Kent, Canterbury, FLT20**  
Kent 135-6, Hampshire 138-4 (G Maxwell 66no). **Hampshire won by 6 wickets.**

**27 Middlesex, Richmond, FLT20**  
Middlesex 156-2, Hampshire 160-6 (S Ervine 75no, S Katich 40). **Hampshire won by 4 wickets.**

**29 Essex, Chelmsford, FLT20**  
Essex 176-4, Hampshire 177-4 (G Maxwell 60no, S Katich 42no). **Hampshire won by 6 wickets.**

**30 Surrey, h, FLT20**  
Surrey 94-6, Hampshire 95-3 (J Vince 25). **Hampshire won by 7 wickets.**

### JULY

**2 Surrey, Kia Oval, FLT20**  
Surrey 84-4 (10 overs), Hampshire 63-0 (J Adams 28no, J Vince 24no). **Hampshire won by 19 runs (D/L Method)**

6 Sussex (F), h, FLT20  
8 Essex (F), h, FLT20  
11-14 Yorkshire, h, LVCC  
15 Durham, h, CB40  
17 Notts (F), Trent Bridge, CB40  
19-22 Essex, Chelmsford, LVCC  
24/25 FLT20 quarter-finals  
27-30 Kent, h, LVCC

### AUGUST

6-9 Gloucestershire, Bristol, LVCC  
10 Glamorgan (F), SWALEC, CB40  
14 Somerset (F), h, CB40  
15-18 Northamptonshire, h, LVCC  
19 Surrey, h, CB40  
21-24 Leics, Grace Road, LVCC  
24/25 FLT20 semi-finals/finals  
27 Durham, Chester-le-Street, CB40

### SEPTEMBER

4-7 Essex, h, LVCC  
11-14 Derbyshire, Derby, LVCC  
15 CB40 final, Lords.

**KEY:** LVCC (LV County Championship division two), CB40 (Clydesdale Bank40), FLT20 (Friends Life t20), F (floodlit)

# WHITE-HOT

## Dawson exploits KP's Achilles heel

AS WELL as helping Hampshire to a valuable Friends Life t20 win against Surrey at The Oval, Liam Dawson's dismissal of Kevin Pietersen for a diamond duck ensured he joined the growing list of slow left-armers to have succeeded against the England batsman.

Pietersen strode to the crease full of intent against his former county but was out to the first ball of the match after driving Dawson to extra cover, where Jimmy Adams held onto an athletic, diving catch.

It was a moment that set the tone for Hampshire's fifth successive South Group win, by 19 runs following the rain that ensured a Duckworth-Lewis calculation.

And it also meant that Dawson joined other slow left-armers to have dismissed Pietersen cheaply.

Pietersen has been out to a southpaw twirler in 23 of his last 82 Test innings, with Sri Lankan Rangana Herath, New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori, Pakistan's Shakib-ul-Hasan and Abdur Rehman, Australia's Xavier Doherty, India's Yuvraj Singh, South Africa's Paul Harris and West Indies Suleiman Benn all successful.

Vettori and Ul-Hasan have dismissed Pietersen on four occasions while Herath, Harris and Benn all have three Pietersen scalps.

But it is not just on the biggest stage where Pietersen has proven vulnerable to spinning lefties.

Last May, when the trend was most pronounced, he hit the headlines when he was out to Cambridge University's Zafar Ansari, now a Surrey teammate.

Although it was not a problem that afflicted Pietersen during his Hampshire career, he began that by getting out to Essex's Tim Phillips.

Pietersen, pictured right, was also dismissed cheaply by lesser-known slow left-armers like Canada's Sunil Dhaniram during his ODI career.

And on Monday night at The Oval, Dawson was delighted to become the latest to capitalise on Pietersen's Achilles heel.



**SET THE TONE:**  
Liam Dawson.

## Hamza in hot water

HAMPSHIRE'S Hamza Riazuddin has received a penalty under the ECB's discipline code.

During the Second XI Championship match between Hampshire and Middlesex on June 26, Riazuddin was reported

by umpires Graham Lloyd and Buddhi Pradhan for a Level One breach of the code (showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action).

Riazuddin, pictured right, has received a rep-

rimand. This penalty will remain on his record for a period of two years and the accumulation of nine or more penalty points in any two-year period will result in an automatic suspension.



**Simon Walter**  
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk  
**CRICKET REPORTER**

**SO FAR, 2012 is promising to be one of Hampshire's most successful seasons in all competitions.**

Despite starting it with relatively conservative ambitions following a winter of prudent cost-cutting, Hampshire are suddenly enjoying success on all three fronts.

Back in 2005, at the end of the second of his four seasons as Hampshire captain, Shane Warne predicted the county would soon be challenging for an historic quadruple.

That was clearly fanciful and these days it is impossible following the culling of the 50-over Trophy.

It is always difficult for counties to be so adaptable as to be successful across the formats which is why Warwickshire's success in 1995 – when they won three of the four competitions under Dermot Reeve – has not been repeated.

Since the Twenty20 came into being in 2003, it is even harder. Players have to be more flexible than ever, as they will show when they switch their attention to the LV County Championship next week following a month of Friends Life t20 action.

Which makes Hampshire's start to the season, with a largely young and home-grown squad, all the more impressive.

Since the introduction of the shortest format, Hampshire have never enjoyed success on all available fronts.

But as they approach the business end of the season, Giles White's, pictured right, squad is still challenging for LV County Championship promotion, a third successive t20 Finals Day as well as enjoying their most successful one-day season since winning the 2009 Friends Provident Trophy.

During the Twenty20 era, Hampshire have never been more consistent in all formats than in 2009, the year they also finished sixth in the LV County Championship's first division and reached the t20 quarter-finals.

But they also failed to qualify from their Clydesdale

**TURN TO PAGES 34-35 FOR LOCAL CRICKET**



# Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

# HAMPSHIRE

## Giles' men fighting for silverware on three fronts



**FANTASTIC FIRST HALF:** David Balcombe has taken 34 Championship wickets at the halfway point of the campaign.

Bank 40 group that year – a familiar story.

In recent seasons, Hampshire have endured terrible starts to the CB40, but they have had a good first half to the group stage this year.

Having won five of their six games they are well placed in second to mount a challenge for semi-final qualification from Group B ahead of their first CB40 game in six weeks, against Durham at The Ageas Bowl next Sunday.

The Royals will now be in the t20 quarter-finals for the fourth successive season if they beat Sussex at The Ageas Bowl last night.

If not,

they have another chance at home to Essex tomorrow afternoon.

Hampshire are also handily placed in the LV County Championship promotion race as they prepare to host Yorkshire at The Ageas Bowl on Wednesday.

Life in division two does not get much bigger than playing Yorkshire over four days.

But Hampshire will go into their first Championship match for a month with confidence. Although their two four-day wins so far were both against bottom-of-the-table Glamorgan, they are unbeaten in four matches.

And although those have all been rain-affected, Hampshire had the better of their game against Yorkshire, the pre-season favourites for promotion, at Headingley in May.

Next week's game will be a good indicator of Hampshire's promotion chances.

With half of the Championship season gone, there is no reason why Hampshire cannot win the second promotion spot behind Derbyshire.

Only nine points sepa-

rate Kent, Yorkshire, Northants (who have played an extra game) and fifth-placed Hampshire.

And Hampshire will welcome back the likes of Bilal Shafayat, David Balcombe and James Tomlinson, who should all be fresh after a month without first-team duty.

The bad news is that Michael Carberry could miss as many as four Championship matches and four CB40 games after suffering knee cartilage damage during net practice last week.

But the good news is that Hampshire have options.

James Vince was dropped for Shafayat at Tunbridge Wells but his confidence has been boosted by a successful month in the FL t20 and he is a fine player to be able to recall.

Carberry's injury also increases the chances of Neil McKenzie staying on to play in the Championship, having initially just signed for the FL t20.

In Carberry's absence, it will be interesting to see whether Liam Dawson is asked to open, having scored an unbeaten 134 at number five at Tunbridge Wells (he scored 181 runs at 12.9 as an opener in the first eight first-class matches of the season).

It would surely make more sense for Simon Katich to open up with Jimmy Adams, a job he did so well for Australia's Test side for many years.

Hampshire's bowling options are not too bad either.

With 34 Championship victims at 22 apiece in the first half of the season, Hampshire have the second division's leading wicket-taker in Balcombe.

And there are plenty of other capable seamers in Tomlinson, Kabir Ali, Dimi Mascarenhas and Chris Wood.

This is certainly a strong 13-man squad for Jimmy Adams and Giles White to be able to choose from against Yorkshire on Wednesday morning: Katich, Adams, Shafayat, Vince, Dawson, Ervine, Bates, Mascarenhas, Kabir Ali, Balcombe, Tomlinson, Briggs, Wood.

## Tommo quick to impress

JAMES Tomlinson will return to LV County Championship action full of confidence if he plays against Yorkshire next week – after returning the best figures of his career.

Once again, the left-arm quick, pictured right, has been left out of the Royals' Friends Life t20 side this year, but he shone in Hampshire's most recent Second XI Championship match.

The three-day game against Kent at Maidstone was in the balance when Bilal Shafayat's 164 helped the visitors make 328-8 declared in reply to their hosts'

331-9 declared.

But thanks to Tomlinson's heroics the match was over within a couple of hours.

Having taken 2-87 in Kent's first innings, Tomlinson responded with NINE wickets for 20 as Kent were bowled out for 45 in their second innings.

Tomlinson finished with figures of 10.4-6-20-9 before Sean Terry helped complete a comfortable ten-wicket win.

His haul included England Under-19 batsman Daniel Bell-Drummond, Chris Cowdrey's son Fabian, Ben Harmison and Alex Blake.



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# Local Cricket Spotlight

## Esson in a tie at the top

ST CROSS Symondians' opener Charlie Esson, pictured, has drawn level at the top of the ECB Southern Electric Premier League batting charts.

The crisp 63 he made in the drawn match against South Wilts last weekend took Esson's aggregate to 287 – the same

number of runs scored by Totton & Eling skipper Dave Taylor.

Former Hampshire opener Derek Kenway and Burridge team-mate Jordon Silk lead the way in Division 2.

Damian Carson's bid to win the Division 3 batting award has been halted by a broken hand, the United Services all-rounder being injured at Fair Oak last week and sidelined for the remainder of the season.

Glenn Maxwell (South Wilts), Dan Hewitt (Hambledon) and Titchborne Park's Tom Allam are the top divisional bowlers.

Leading individual performers - ECB Premier Division

**Batting:** Charlie Esson (St Cross Symondians) 287, David Taylor (Totton & Eling) 287, Oli Green (Academy) 277, Ali Jaffer (Lyminster) 243, James Hayward (South Wilts) 237, James Taylor (Totton & Eling) 235, Neil Thurgood (Bashley) 233, Scott Myers (Alton) 223, George Adair (St Cross Symondians) 220.

**Bowling:** Glenn Maxwell (South Wilts) 19, Matt Perry-Lewis (St Cross Symondians) 18, Richard Hindley (18), Owen Alsop (South Wilts) 17, Richard Logan (St Cross Symondians) 17, Jez Ord (Havant) 16, Matt Metcalfe (Bournemouth) 16.

**Catches:** Richard Hindley 7, Rob Gibson (Academy) 7, Pete Hopson (Havant) 5.

**Wicketkeeping:** Jez Bullard (Havant) 13, Tom Morton (South Wilts) 13, Nigel Bungay (Totton & Eling) 10, Lewis McManus (Academy) 10.

**Division 2**  
**Batting:** Derek Kenway (Burridge) 341, Jordon Silk (Burridge) 316, Ben Thane (Hook & Newnham Basics) 288, Tristen McDonald (Rowledge) 260, Jonty Hadfield (Andover) 247, Rob Atkins (Hambledon) 242, Alex Styles (Burridge) 219, Ryan Beck (New Milton) 212.

**Bowling:** Dan Hewitt (Hambledon) 18, Kevin Poulter (Hook) 16, Luke Graham (Andover) 16, Dan Loader (NM) 16, Paul Ancell (Burridge) 15.

**Catches:** Jonty Hadfield (Andover) 6, Chris Jolley (Hartley Wintney) 6, Matt Love (Hook) 6, Scott Dawes (Paultons) 6.

**Wicketkeeping:** Ros Hunter (Hook) 9, Nick Scott (Hambledon) 9, Ian Metcalfe (Rowledge) 8, Jamie Rood (Burridge) 8.

**Division 3**  
**Batting:** Peter Woodland (Liphook) 352, Damian Carson (US) 348, Richard Partington (Sparsholt) 346, David Taylor (Totton II) 330, Paul Marks (Fawley) 279, Graham Noble (Langley Manor) 252, Ali Cheyne (LM) 249, Mark Thorne (Fair Oak) 246, Craig Renders (LM) 240.

**Bowling:** Tom Allam (Titchborne Park) 22, Paul Proudley (Calmore Sports) 20, Ed Berry (TP) 19, Chris Blake (Trojans) 17, Owamir Afzal (Fawley) 16, Dylan Augustus (Totton II) 16, Nick Wheeler (Hursley Park) 16, Joe Lovett (Fawley) 16, Cody Henderson (US) 16, Mike West (Calmore Sports) 15, Hakim Peruzi (Totton II) 15.

**Catches:** Ed Primmer (TP) 12, Ed Berry (TP) 8.

**Wicketkeeping:** Nigel le Bas (Trojans) 11, Darren Vann (Calmore Sports) 10, Le Carroll (US) 9, Dave Lyons (TP) 9.

**SOUTH WILTS captain James Hayward is backing his seam attack to come up trumps again this weekend and bring the Salisbury club further ECB Kingfisher Beer Cup glory when Bridgwater make a Sunday visit to Bemerton (1pm) in the opening national round of the competition.**

The current Southern Electric Premier League leaders successfully defended modest totals to knock Bath and Sully Centurions out in the last two rounds – and Hayward is asking for the same again.

■ By Mike Vimpany

echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

"We've bowled and fielded superbly as a unit and beaten two very good club sides, and I'm confident we can do it again," he said.

"Conditions are bound to be damp after all the poor weather we've had and that might suit us.

"It's the last 16 of the national competition – a stage we've not reached previously in my time at the club – so if we can get through, it's the quarter-finals."

South Wilts will need to be at their best again as Bridgwater are arguably the strongest side to come to Bemerton so far.

They are top of the West of England Premier League – the western equivalent of the SPL – and have a fine track record in the national knockout, having been narrowly edged out by Ealing last season.

South Wilts will name an unchanged cup side, with Hayward



JAMES HAYWARD



**IMPRESSIVE :** Fawley, who lead Southern Electric Premier League, Division 3 in only their second season in the competition. Back (left-right): John Church (Chairperson), Lee Wateridge, Wayne Royan, Joe Locke, Owamir Afzal, Callum Earl, Wayne Smith, George Harris (scorer) Front: Kieran Earl, James Woolgar, Tom Gates, Paul Marks, Ernst Knacke, Andy Parratt.

again relying on a four-pronged seam attack, with plenty of spin options as a variant.

**South Wilts:** Morton, Riddle, Abel, Mynott, Hayward, Hibberd, Pittman, Franklin, Haggarty, Warner, Sheppard.

**Bridgwater:** Coles, Hallaran, Windsor, Butt, Clarke, Vickery, Gange, Jones, Bishop, Habberfield, Skidmore, Standerwick, Clapp, Skidmore.

For the first time ever, the Southern Electric Premier League has two of its clubs pushing for a last eight spot, with Havant facing powerful Middlesex County Premier League side Teddington at Havant Park, 1pm.

Teddington lie third in the MCPL, having significantly knocked out mighty Ealing in their group final.

**Havant:** Hindley, Bullard, Walker, Morgan Ransley, Mills, Stone, Ord, Dean, Hopson, Robins.

### HOW THEY REACHED THE NATIONAL ROUNDS

**South Wilts**  
**Round 1:** bye  
**Round 2:** South Wilts 180 (Hayward 70) Totton & Eling 144 (Franklin 4-33, Alsop 3-28). South Wilts won by 36 runs.  
**Round 3:** South Wilts 200-9 (Abel 58) Bournemouth 125 (Hayward 3-6, Abel 3-27). South Wilts won by 75 runs.  
**Round 4:** South Wilts 179 (Riddle 36, Morton 34, Hayward 31) Bath 116 (Hayward 3-16). South Wilts won by 63 runs.  
**Round 5:** South Wilts 156-8 (Morton 58, Mynott 32) Sully Centurions 119 (Hayward 3-12, Hibberd 3-23). South Wilts won by 37 runs.

**Havant**  
**Round 1:** bye  
**Round 2:** Liphook & Ripsley 99 (Ben Walker 3-11), Havant 89-1 (Pete Hopson 39). Havant won by nine wickets.  
**Round 3:** Basingstoke & North Hants 124-9 (Walker 3-19) Havant 125-2 (Hopson 63). Havant won by 8 wickets.  
**Round 4:** Havant 193-9 (Hopson 61) Alton 104 (Jez Ord 3-16). Havant won by 89 runs.  
**Round 5:** Spencer 194-8 (Richard Hindley 3-23) Havant 195-3 (Walker 78, Ransley 53). Havant won by 7 wickets.

# Anything can happen

IT'S going to take a brave man to forecast the outcome of the Southern Electric Premier League, Division 2 championship race.

The lead has changed hands three times in as many weeks in a competitive ten-club league in which most of the sides are capable of beating one another.

Rowledge, Andover and Hook & Newnham Basics have all worn the yellow jersey in recent weeks.

But, with effectively only 12 points separating the top seven clubs, anything could realistically happen in the second half of the season – always assuming it stops raining, of course!

Kevin Poulter spun Hook & Newnham Basics to the top with a five-star performance against Burridge.

The Hampshire Over-50s left-arm

spinner took 5-29 and then allowed skipper Ben Thane centre stage with an unbeaten century which steered Basics to a five-wicket win, which saw Hook leapfrog their second-place visitors and overnight leaders Andover, who crashed to defeat against New Milton.

Hook are now unbeaten in five matches and probably favourites for the silverware.

But that's a statement that Thane won't relish reading.

"There's not a single game in this league you can take lightly, so we need to be on our game every time we take the field," he warned.

With a 'gold' accreditation, Burridge have promotion aspirations of their own and, when stylish New South Wales Under-19 batsman Jordon Silk hit 105, the visitors fancied their chances at 205-5.

But Poulter's five-wicket spell sent Burridge tumbling to 234-9 – and put Hook back in the driving seat.

Thane's century, backed by Matt Love (31) and Graham Buckingham (59), got Hook home with two overs to spare.

Andover's young side dropped from first to fifth spot after a three-wicket defeat by New Milton, who have become the surprise packets of a soggy summer.

The Beck brothers are having a fine season – Ryan complements his 212 runs with 12 wickets, and Lee has eight victims in addition to his 203 runs – and both had a hand in the victory over Andover, who were dismissed for 134 (Luke Scully 46).

Ryan took 3-15, while Lee made 43 as New Milton celebrated a fifth win in eight – no mean achievement

with the likes of Eric Linge and the prolific David Wheeler absent this summer.

Like Hook, Rowledge have lost only twice and their 35-run win over local rivals Hartley Wintney pushed them to within three points of the leaders.

Ricky Yates top scored with 89 for Rowledge, for whom Hampshire Under-15 talent Will Arnold (55) celebrated an SPL half-century.

Rowledge weren't that sure with 265-6 on the board – HW coming back with 230, Will Phillips hitting 72.

Salisbury Athletic are behind on their games but, even in sixth place, are dangerous opponents who never know when they are beaten.

Ask Hambledon and, more recently, OTs & Romsey, who were edged out by one wicket in an Allotment Road thriller.

**DON'T MISS MONDAY'S SEPL ROUND-UP IN THE DAILY ECHO**



# Local Cricket Spotlight

## Having a good Bash at going up

**BASHLEY (Rydal) Seconds are making positive strides in their bid to regain the Southern Electric Premier League slot they surrendered at the end of last season.**

At the halfway stage of the current campaign, they lie third in County Division 1 behind Portsmouth & Southsea and Ryde, with six wins in seven outings.

And, with Bashley's Premier Division side set to become stronger in the coming weeks, Simon Dean's team could well get into the promotion mix during the second half of the campaign.

"The only game we've lost so far was when St Cross Symondians chased down an incred-

### HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE

ible 296 to beat us, so we're pretty pleased with the way things have gone so far," Dean said.

"It's nice to be winning games regularly too and that's instilled confidence in the side."

Overall, Bashley experienced one of their leanest ever seasons in 2011, with the 1st XI finishing second from bottom of the Premier Division and the second team getting relegated into the Hampshire League.

But, with Bashley stronger overall this season, the seconds have benefitted and are punching above their weight.

Bashley's latest success came in the form of a four-wicket win over Portchester, whom they bowled out for 180 (Jamie Ryan 45) on a damp Cams Hill surface.

"We were probably 20 runs short of a competitive total," reflected Portchester skipper Paul Hungerford.

"Neil Taylor and Simon Dean put the brakes on with their effective spin bowling, but we scored well in the last seven overs, with Matt Crouch making 35."

Bashley were 30-2 in reply, but Sean Lilley (47) and Taylor (54) used their years of experience to guide the visitors into a winning position.

"Their partnership took the game away from us. We got late wickets, but the game was up by then," Hungerford submitted.

Portsmouth & Southsea and Ryde are clearly the sides Bashley (Rydal) will have to overcome if they are to knock at the Premier League's door in the reshaped fourth division next season.

The top pair both won again - P & S drilling a significant dent in Waterloo's own aspirations with a seven-wicket win at Rowlands Avenue.

The Ville posted a handy 208-6, with lanky South African John Grewar, from Durban, hitting an unbeaten 109.

But he was upstaged by fellow countryman Ash Wallace - the CapeTownean cracking an equally fine 117 and sharing a key partnership with the Royal Navy's Lee Evans (61).

The win kept P & S two points ahead of Ryde, who trimmed Fareham & Crofton by 89 runs at Harding

Shute. Ryde openers Nick Drysdale (35) and Dale Hackett (30) started to score at a steady rate and, despite losing wickets regularly, the pattern continued throughout the Islanders' 251-9.

John Zaccardi (47) and Donald Gordon (25) scored important runs before Luke Gould (38) got Fareham away to a typically aggressive response.

But, once Blair Granger (3-24) dismissed the Fareham captain, the writing was on the ball for the visitors.

Fareham, with Australian Brent Jarvis-Spinks out for the remainder of the season with a broken right hand, have little strength in depth and gradually subsided to 162 all out, with Gordon (3-32) and Andy Day (3-28) sharing the remaining spoils.

Fourth-placed St Cross Symondians III continued their fine

13 before hitting a match winning 75 not out as St Cross chased down Hook's 167.

Locks Heath pair Scott Jones and Alex Richardson shared a massive 240-run opening partnership to set up a 62-run win over Midhurst in a run fest at Warsash Road.

Jones made 109 and Richardson 105, before Locks Heath collapsed to 286-9 against Tim Atkins (5-56).

"We lost all ten wickets for 46 runs after that - guys just came and gave it the bash to get us over the 300-mark," explained Locks Heath skipper Jon Richardson.

Left-arm spinner Peter Bleek took 5-53 as Midhurst were dismissed for 224.

Bedhampton failed to win a single match during the first half of the 2011 season - but turned their summer upside down by winning almost every game after that.

They finished in mid-table, but appear most unlikely to repeat the feat this time around.

They were skittled for 91 (Andrew Pearce 4-26) by Alton and beaten by nine wickets in only 21 overs, Jack Penn blasting 56 not out.

Andover lie second from bottom after suffering a 58-run defeat by fellow strugglers Lymington II at London Road.

Fifteen-year old Canford School prospect Felix Ambrose starred for Lymington, with a glorious 118, sharing in a productive century opening stand with Joel Sutherland (48).

Ambrose, who went on to score another century for Hampshire Under-15s against Somerset in the ECB County Cup the following day, underpinned Lymington's 240.

Howard Rake's cavalier 59 gave Andover the perfect start, but Ollie Kelly's leg spin gradually worked inroads into the reply. Kelly took 4-37 as Andover were dismissed for 182.

Ellingham must be fearful of their immediate CD1 future after a fifth defeat in six - Chris Sheppard (94) laying the foundation for Idlers' 217-8 at Leckford, where the E's were dismissed for 183.

Playing only their fourth game of the season due to the extreme weather, Rowledge II were dismissed for 145 and beaten by four wickets by Purbrook.



### BASHLEY

**RYDAL:** Left to right, back: James Underwood, Jamie Gawler, Jason Eede, James Rapson, Matt Kington, Ian Britton. Front: Neil Taylor, Shaun Lilley, Simon Dean, Callum Maher, Chris Gates.

## Tea trouble brewing

**ANDY DAWSON**, father of Hampshire all-rounder Liam Dawson, has voiced a warning to Paultons to expect a tough time in next Sunday's Yorkshire Tea Village Cup sixth round at Whitmoor Lane.

Dawson senior is the man behind renowned Wiltshire village cup fighters Goatacre, who have drawn Paultons in the next round of the competition.

"Our lads are playing some good cricket and are currently second in the feeder league in to the West of England Premier," Dawson warns.

"It's a decent league - probably better than the one Paultons play in - so we're pretty confident."

Liam's Dawson's sibling brother Brad Dawson plays as an off-spin all-rounder for Goatacre, who have twice lifted the Village Cup at Lord's in

the past.

Andy Dawson was a Village Cup winner himself with Goatacre in 1990 and has an influential role with the current side.

Paultons eased through to the second national phase of the Village Cup with a seven-wicket win over Somerset's Wembdon, SPL2 rivals Rowledge went out, losing by 55 runs to Kent's Sibdon Park.

**HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE ROUND-UP APPEARS IN WEDNESDAY'S DAILY ECHO**



## QUOTES of the week

"Out of my huge respect for Mr Wenger, the players and the fans I don't want to go into any details, but unfortunately in this meeting it has again become clear to me that we in many aspects disagree on the way Arsenal should move forward" - **Robin van Persie** announces he will not be signing a new contract with Arsenal.

"Robin has one year to run on his current contract and we are confident that he will fulfil his commitments to the club. We are planning with ambition and confidence for next season with Arsenal's best interests in mind" - **Arsenal** respond.

"I don't know who decides when we can stop, but I thought it was an agreement they had with the people that live around here that they wouldn't play past 11pm. So I didn't know if they were going to get fined or whatever" - **Andy Murray**, whose match against Marcos Baghdatis under the Centre Court roof edged past the 11pm curfew at Wimbledon.

"I told Tiger that was a Bo Van Pelt crowd, so I was used to that. I was very comfortable with 10 or 15 people watching me play golf" - **Bo Van Pelt** on playing a round with Tiger Woods in front of virtually no-one on Saturday when Congressional was closed to the public because of overnight storms.

"Those people who think we are playing boring, in my opinion they don't understand the game" - **Cesc Fabregas** after Spain answered their critics - including Fabregas' former Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger - with a 4-0 win over Italy to claim the Euro 2012 crown.

"If Edinburgh was where London is we'd probably have shaken hands on a deal already" - **EventScotland** organiser **Stuart Turner** hits on a pretty fundamental snag in his bid to bring the Tour de France Grand Depart to Edinburgh.

"Mark's our plan A, plan B, plan C" - **Team GB** cyclist **David Millar** explains **Mark Cavendish's** importance in the road race.

"The Olympics, and especially a home Olympics, would have been the pinnacle of my career. I feel totally devastated" - **Taekwondo** world number one **Aaron Cook** after deciding not to take his appeal over his exclusion from Team GB to the High Court.

"I told the press I was looking for the title and it's nice to back up your words when it comes to it. I wanted to put pressure on myself beforehand because it's only going to get worse heading into London" - **Robbie Grabarz** after winning the high jump at the European Championships.

## Horse Racing

# Blinkers can pay off

### FIRST-TIME blinkers can spark Chiswick Bey back to life in the Your Favourite Pool Bets At totepool.com Handicap at Ayr.

Richard Fahey's four-year-old looked a promising type as a juvenile and was thought of highly enough to run in the Coventry Stakes behind Strong Suit.

He finished a fine third in a big sales race at Doncaster behind stablemate Wootton Bassett and the Malton handler was no doubt looking forward to planning his three-year-old campaign.

Obviously he had a setback as he only ran twice but his second place finish to another stablemate,

Common Touch, at York off a mark of 90 suggested he retained plenty of ability.

This season has not gone to plan, however, and he has slipped down the ratings to 82.

He does handle a bit of cut in the ground but would not want it bottomless.

With the useful Shane B Kelly taking a further 5lb off and the headgear to help, it would be no surprise to see him back in business.

Michael Dods has his team in good nick and The Oil Magnate looked close to returning to winning ways last time out.

He's out again in the totepool.com Sports, Games, Bingo & More

Handicap and despite the burden of top weight he must go close.

Third off the same mark at Doncaster last month, he is very effective with cut in the ground and this does not look the most competitive contest.

Wilf Storey's Petrocelli went close at Ripon last time out and can go one better in the Bet On Wimbledon Final At totepool.com Handicap.

The winner that day, Eastwood Ho, has followed up at Doncaster and as it was Petrocelli's first run of the campaign, he can be expected to strip fitter this time.

Hughie Morrison has booked Tony McCoy for Stravita in the first division of the Don Noble Celebrating 50

Years Handicap Hurdle at Market Rasen.

It shows how talented a trainer Morrison is that he can have winners at the Cheltenham Festival and go close to winning Classics on the level. McCoy was on board when the eight-year-old was second last time out but the fact he maintains the partnership means better can be expected.

Micky Hammond is in the middle of a purple patch and must be delighted with how his horses are running at present. His La Pantera Rosa was a good recent winner at Wetherby and a 10lb hike may not be enough to stop him in the Donald Noble Memorial Handicap Chase.

## HAYDOCK

Going: Good to Soft-Soft in places

### 2.20 BET365 HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £20,000 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £12,938.

1	433/50	FAIR TRADE (17) H Morrison 5 9 13	.....	G Lee 4
2	352/110	IMPERIAL DJAY (IRE) (15) (D7) Mrs R Carr 7 9 10P	.....	McDonald 7
3	3-6200	LOUIS THE PIOUS (15) K Ryan 4 9 7	.....	P Makin 2
4	0-1032	ESPRIT DE MIDAS (22) (C)(D) D Ivory 6 9 7	.....	W Kelly 1
5	520-03	ATLANTIC SPORT (USA) (15) (D) M Channon 7 9 7	.....	Martin Harley 5
6	153445	DUBAI DYNAMO (9) (D) Mrs R Carr 7 9 3	.....	S Sanders 8
7	151006	AL MUHEER (IRE) (7) (D) Mrs R Carr 7 9 2	.....	J P Sullivan 3
8	000330	CLOCKMAKER (IRE) (22) (D) T Esterby 6 9 2	.....	D Fentiman 6
9	454030	DOCOFTEBAY (IRE) (15) (S) S Dixon 8 9 2	.....	J Mongan 9

BETTING: 5-2 Atlantic Sport, 10-3 Esprit De Midas, 6-1 Imperial Djay, 8-1 Docofteday, 10-1 Louis The Pious, Dubai Dynamo, Fair Trade, 12-1 Clockmaker, 14-1 Al Muheer.

### 2.55 BET365 LANCASHIRE OAKS (FILLIES' GROUP 2) (CLASS 1). £80,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £45,368.

1	64-210	AQUAMARINE (JPN) (40) (D) M Delzangles (FR) 4 9 5	.....	T Huet 2
2	614-04	MOHEDIAN LADY (IRE) (35) (D) L Cumani 4 9 5	.....	K Fallon 6
3	5-0026	MYPLACELATER (19) (D) R Fahey 5 9 5	.....	D Nolan 9
4	12-621	SET TO MUSIC (IRE) (19) (D) M Bell 4 9 5	.....	J P Spencer 5
5	055-21	SHIMMERING SURF (IRE) (35) (C) R Varian 5 9 5	.....	G Baker 7
6	1120-0	TESTOSTERONE (IRE) (14) (D) E Dunlop 4 9 5	.....	P Murtogh 4
7	323160	GOOD MORNING STAR (IRE) (35) M Johnston 3 8 6	.....	J Fanning 1
8	5-11	GREAT HEAVENS (23) J Gosden 3 8 6	.....	R Havlin 3
9	45-444	SALFORD ART (IRE) (16) D Elsworth 3 8 6	.....	S De Sousa 8

BETTING: 7-2 Great Heavens, 4-1 Set To Music, 9-2 Shimmering Surf, 11-2 Testosterone, 7-1 Aquamarine, 8-1 Salford Art, 10-1 Mohedian Lady, 14-1 Myplacelater, 25-1 Good Morning Star.

### 3.25 BET365 OLD NEWTON CUP (HERITAGE HANDICAP) (CLASS 2). £100,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £62,250.

1	0-2150	ALLIED POWERS (IRE) (14) (D) M Bell 7 9 10	.....	T Garner 7
2	1102-0	PARLOUR GAMES (87) (D) M Al Zarooni 4 8 13	.....	DOUBTFUL 12
3	5236/5	DREAMSPED (IRE) (49) A Balding 5 8 13	.....	L Keniry 15
4	116-11	EASY TERMS (50) (D) E Tuer 5 8 10	.....	J P Sullivan 17
5	6-3030	HURRICANE HIGGINS (IRE) (22) M Johnston 4 8 10	.....	J Fanning 10
6	5100-0	CRY FURY (36) R Charlton 4 8 10	.....	J P Spencer 1
7	220-06	KIAMA BAY (IRE) (59) (D) J Quinn 6 8 9	.....	M O'Connell 11
8	70-023	HILLVIEW BOY (IRE) (21) (D) J Goldie 8 8 7	.....	G Lee 3
9	01-100	WAR POET (7) (D) D O'Meara 5 8 6	.....	P McDonald 16
10	312-22	TMAAM (USA) (15) (D)(BF) M Johnston 4 8 6	.....	F Norton 13
11	56-311	NUMBER THEORY (24) (C) J Holt 4 8 5	.....	R Kennemore 19
12	321-51	FRANCISCAN (42) (C) L Cumani 4 8 5	.....	K Fallon 5
13	1021-1	LEXI'S BOY (IRE) (10) (D) D McCain 4 8 4	.....	C Catlin 2
14	06-101	QUIZ MISTRESS (20) (D) H Morrison 4 8 4	.....	N Mackay 7
15	00-106	DEAUVILLE FLYER (22) (C)(D) T Esterby 6 8 4	.....	D Fentiman 6
16	600-00	TEPMOKEA (IRE) (14) (D)(BF) Mrs K Burke 6 8 4	.....	Cathy Gannon 9
17	110-00	BECAUSEWECAN (USA) (7) (D) M Johnston 6 8 4	.....	A Nicholls 8

BETTING: 11-4 Lexi's Boy, 6-1 Franciscan, 15-2 Cry Fury, 8-1 Number Theory, 10-1 Tmaam, Easy Terms, Quiz Mistress, 12-1 Hillview Boy, 16-1 others.

### 4.00 MOBILE AT BET365.COM NURSERY (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £5,175.

1	314	YES TWO (33) B Millman 9 7	.....	J Millman 4
2	0412	FORTINBRASS (IRE) (22) R Beckett 9 0	.....	J Rogers 5
3	3201	STEER BY THE STARS (IRE) (17) M Johnston 8 12	.....	J Fanning 8
4	612	RATED (50) M Channon 8 11	.....	Martin Harley 6
5	504	WALTER WHITE (IRE) (22) A Balding 8 7	.....	L Keniry 10
6	036	BAYAN KASIRGA (IRE) (17) R Fahey 8 5	.....	P Mathers 9
7	000	DELORES ROCKET (24) K Ryan 8 2	.....	Julie Burke 3
8	322404	OUT OF THE BLOCKS (12) Mrs R Carr 8 1	.....	J P Sullivan 5
9	563	IT'S ONLY BUSINESS (18) W G M Turner 8 1	.....	Cathy Gannon 7
10	620	ALEXANDRAKOLLONTAI (IRE) (15) J S Moore 7 12	.....	N Garbutt 7

BETTING: 7-2 Yes Two, 4-1 Fortinbrass, 5-1 Steer By The Stars, 6-1 Rated, 7-1 Out Of The Blocks, 8-1 Bayan Kasirga, 12-1 Walter White, 14-1 Delores Rocket, 16-1 others.

## Saturday's runners

### 4.35 BET365.COM HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £20,000 added 3YO only 1m 4f Penalty Value £12,938.

1	02122-	REPEATER (252) Sir M Prescott 9 7	.....	C Catlin 1
2	51-21	PROOFREADER (18) J Gosden 9 5	.....	R Havlin 5
3	5-120	WILLIE WAG TAIL (USA) (24) (D) Ed Walker 9 3	.....	G Baker 7
4	5-120	GABRIEL THE GREAT (IRE) (16) (BF) M Bell 8 13	.....	J P Spencer 4
5	-00641	CHOISAN (IRE) (16) (D) T Esterby 8 9	.....	D Fentiman 6
6	6-013	BUTE HALL (7) (D) M Johnston 8 9	.....	J Fanning 2
7	43231	FLEETING IMAGE (35) (C) A Bailey 8 7	.....	Natasha Eaton 7

BETTING: 2-1 Gabriel The Great, 5-2 Proofreader, 11-2 Willie Wag Tail, 6-1 Repeater, 8-1 Choisian, 14-1 Butte Hall, 16-1 Fleeting Image.

### 5.10 BET365.COM CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS 3). £13,000 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £8,092.

1	235005	INXILE (IRE) (20) (C)(D) D Nicholls 7 9 10	.....	A Nicholls 3
2	0-0320	DONCASTER ROVER (USA) (7) (C) D Brown 6 9 2	.....	De Sousa 5
3	-00000	NASRI (7) (D) J Bradley 6 9 2	.....	D Holland 6
4	221350	ALBEN STAR (IRE) (14) (D) R Fahey 4 8 11	.....	J P Spencer 2
5	50-354	MORACHE MUSIC (14) (D) P Makin 4 8 11	.....	S Sanders 1
6	556600	SOS BRILLANTE (CHI) (7) (D) T Clement 7 8 6	.....	J McDonald 4

BETTING: 7-4 Morache Music, 3-1 Doncaster Rover, 7-2 Inxile, Alben Star, 14-1 Nasri, 66-1 Sos Brillante.

### 5.40 CASINO AT BET365.COM HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 3YO only 5f Penalty Value £5,175.

1	12-122	SONKO (IRE) (28) (D) T Pitt 9 7	.....	J P Spencer 3
2	660-10	TIOMAN PEARL (14) (D) R Varian 9 7	.....	A Atzeni 6
3	033024	CHURCH MUSIC (IRE) (7) (D) M Scudamore 9 4	.....	D Holland 8
4	333555	SIGNIFER (IRE) (10) (D) M Channon 9 2	.....	Martin Harley 5
5	110050	HEARTSONG (IRE) (10) (D) J Gallagher 9 0	.....	J Mongan 9
6	-50341	LADY GIBRALTAR (7) (D) A Jarvis 8 13	.....	Michael J M Murphy 7
7	426800	I'LL BE GOOD (7) (D) R Johnson 8 12	.....	G Lee 4
8	4251-0	TANGO SKY (IRE) (26) (D) R Beckett 8 11	.....	J Rogers 5
9	566212	DEMORA (31) (D)(BF) M Appleby 8 5	.....	S De Sousa 7

BETTING: 10-3 Sonko, 9-2 Demora, 5-1 Tioman Pearl, 11-2 Lady Gibraltar, 6-1 Church Music, 8-1 Tango Sky, 12-1 Signifer, 14-1 Heartsong, 16-1 I'll Be Good.

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# Horse Racing



## Sports Quiz

### AYR

Going: Soft-Good to Soft in places

#### 2.00 SADIE SAWERS MEMORIAL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,900 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £3,170.

1	BURNING BLAZE (IRE) R Ryan 9 3	.....P Makin 5
2	ELNADANCER (IRE) (15) G Swinbank 9 3	.....R Winston 4
3	FOOLBYTHPOOL K Dalgleish 9 3	.....G Lee 2
4	HUNTING RIGHTS (USA) M Johnston 9 3	.....J Fanning 3
5	SIMPLY SHINING (IRE) R Fahey 8 12	.....T Hamilton 6
6	ZADIG (USA) G Woodward 8 12	.....1

BETTING: 9-4 Burning Blaze, 5-2 Elnadancer, 3-1 Hunting Rights, 9-2 Simply Shining, 16-1 Foolbythpool, 20-1 Zadig.

#### 2.30 BET ON BRITISH GP AT TOTEPOOL.COM HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £3,900 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £2,523.

1	230640	MASTER OF DANCE (IRE) (16) K Dalgleish 5 10	.....J Fanning 7
2	00-415	EMERALDS SPIRIT (IRE) (11) (CD) J Weymes 5 10	OP Mulrennan 4
3	0-0604	SABRATHA (IRE) (9) (CD) Miss L Perratt 4 9 12	.....P Makin 9
4	1140-0	BERBICE (IRE) (23) (D) Miss L Perratt 7 9 11	Julie Burke (3) 1
5	020-40	MONTHLY MEDAL (17) (D) W Storey 9 9 6	.....J P Sullivan 8
6	40-540	RUTTERKIN (USA) (20) (D) A Berry 4 9 5	.....10
7	00505/	JEHEL TARA (910) (S) Semple 7 9 4	.....L Newman 5
8	54-22U	GONINODAETHAT (9) (BF) J Goldie 4 9 3	.....G Lee 6
9	00020-	LET'S FACE FACTS (256) J Goldie 5 9 2	.....N Farley (5) 3
10	604024	SPREAD BOY (IRE) (5) A Berry 5 9 0	.....M Hopkins (7) 2

BETTING: 11-4 Goninodaethat, 4-1 Emeralds Spirit, 5-1 Sabratha, 13-2 Spread Boy, 8-1 Master Of Dance, 10-1 Rutterkin, 12-1 Monthly Medal, 14-1 Let's Face Facts, 33-1 Jebel Tara.

#### 3.00 BET ON WIMBLEDON FINAL AT TOTEPOOL.COM HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,800 added 4YO PLUS 1m Penalty Value £1,909.

1	2503-4	MILITARY CALL (23) (CD) A Whillans 5 9 7	.....M O'Connell 8
2	30-500	PRAXIOS (44) N Wilson 4 9 6	.....B McHugh 10
3	0-0006	GOLDENWELL (IRE) (14) (C) R Fahey 4 9 6	.....S B Kelly (5) 11

4	040-02	TAZAAMUN (IRE) (16) (BF) D O'Meara 4 9 5	P Mulrennan 12
5	0-0054	GLENLUJI (16) (CD) J Goldie 7 9 3	.....G Lee 4
6	-00036	MANGHAM (IRE) (11) (D) A G Foster 7 9 3	.....N Farley (5) 2
7	0/00-2	PETROCELLI (17) W Storey 5 9 3	.....J P Sullivan 1
8	6-4234	KYLLACHYKOV (IRE) (25) (BF) R Bastiman 4 8 11	R Winston 5
9	65-500	HENRYS GIFT (IRE) (25) M Dods 4 8 10	.....T Eaves 3
10	30460-	SPIN A WISH (236) R M Whitaker 4 8 8	.....Amy Ryan 13
11	0-6000	TINZO (IRE) (33) A Berry 4 8 8	.....7
12	05-050	FACE EAST (USA) (16) A Berry 4 8 8	.....6
13	40-400	SHUNKAWAKHAN (IRE) (16) (C)(D) Miss L Perratt 9 8 8	.....P

14	/000-6	CATCHER OF DREAMS (IRE) (J101) A G Foster 6 8 8	McDonald 14 Hopkins (7) 9
----	--------	---	------------------------------

BETTING: 3-1 Tazaamun, 4-1 Kyllachykov, 5-1 Petrocelli, 7-1 Military Call, 8-1 Glenlui, 10-1 Goldenwell, 12-1 Mangham, 16-1 Henrys Gift, Praxios, 20-1 others.

#### 3.30 YOUR FAVOURITE POOL BETS AT TOTEPOOL.COM HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m Penalty Value £5,175.

1	-20036	STAR SURPRISE (127) (D) M Bell 4 10 0	.....Hayley Turner 2
2	-02303	SILVER MOON (IRE) (11) (CD) T Easterby 5 9 12	.....D Allan 4
3	2-0065	CHISWICK BEY (IRE) (15) R Fahey 4 9 11	.....S B Kelly (5) 3
4	300662	BLUES JAZZ (16) (C) I Semple 6 9 8	.....G Whillans (5) 7
5	0-6054	SILVER RIME (FR) (11) (CD) Miss L Perratt 7 9 2	.....P Makin 9
6	00-010	NORTHERN FLING (39) (C)(D) J Goldie 8 9 2	.....G Lee 6
7	2-1301	LE CHAT D'OR (29) (D) M Dods 4 9 1	.....T Eaves 1
8	240-12	PROPHECY (IRE) (15) D Carroll 3 9 0	.....N Farley (5) 8
9	441-00	MASTER OF AGES (IRE) (36) M Johnston 3 8 9	J Fanning 5

BETTING: 7-2 Silvery Moon, 4-1 Le Chat D'or, 9-2 Prophecy, 11-2 Blues Jazz, 7-1 Star Surprise, 8-1 Chiswick Bey, 12-1 Master Of Ages, Silver Rime, 20-1 Northern Fling.

#### 4.00 TOTEPOOL.COM SPORTS, GAMES, BINGO & MORE HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 5f Penalty Value £2,911.

1	2250-3	HOUSTON DYNIMO (IRE) (44) (BF) N Richards 7 10 0	OP Mulrennan 6
2	1-U360	LAW TO HIMSELF (IRE) (18) G Swinbank 5 10 0	McDonald 7
3	503-03	THE OIL MAGNATE (21) (CD) M Dods 7 10 0	.....T Eaves 5
4	053534	PANDORICA (22) B J Llewellyn 4 9 5	.....R Winston 4
5	-04303	BAVARIAN NORDIC (USA) (16) (S) R M Whitaker 7 9 3	Amy Ryan 8

6	151310	QUIET APPEAL (IRE) (9) M Johnston 3 8 9	.....J Fanning 1
7	213034	ZA'LAN (USA) (5) M Johnston 3 8 9	.....J Fanning 2
8	/0246-	A SOUTHSIDE BOY (GER) (316) J Goldie 4 8 9	.....G Lee 3

BETTING: 5-2 Houston Dynimo, 4-1 The Oil Magnate, 5-1 Bavarian Nordic, 6-1 Pandorica, 8-1 Za'lan, Quiet Appeal, 10-1 Law To Himself, 16-1 A Southside Boy.

#### 4.30 LILIAN FLYNN 'ALL THE BEST' MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,800 added 3YO only 6f Penalty Value £1,909.

1	030-06	ROCK OF MONET (25) M Bell 9 7	.....Hayley Turner 5
2	060	NEW LEASE OF LIFE (13) J Goldie 9 6	.....G Lee 8
3	6304	DARTRIX (16) (BF) M Dods 9 4	.....T Eaves 6
4	-04240	BALTI'S SISTER (IRE) (12) (D)(BF) M W Easterby 9 2	P Mulrennan 1
5	0600-6	SIMPSON MILLAR (9) N Wilson 8 11	.....N Farley (5) 4
6	506535	GRAN CANARIA QUEEN (13) I Semple 8 11	.....B McHugh 2
7	303-06	DYLAN'S DREAM (IRE) (20) T Easterby 8 11	.....D Allan 3
8	406054	SCRIPT (5) A Berry 8 7	.....M Hopkins (7) 7

BETTING: 3-1 Dartrix, 7-2 Rock of Monet, 5-1 Balti's Sister, 11-2 New Lease Of Life, 13-2 Gran Canaria Queen, 7-1 Dylan's Dream, 12-1 Simpson Millar, 25-1 Script.

#### 5.00 DEAL OR NO DEAL AT TOTEPOOL.COM AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,800 added 4YO PLUS 5f Penalty Value £1,844.

1	00-250	FOREIGN RHYTHM (IRE) (41) (D) R Barr 7 11 0	.....1
2	002023	DISTANT SUN (USA) (5) (C)(D) Miss L Perratt 8 10 11	.....5
3	0-0460	RYEDANE (IRE) (19) (D7) T Easterby 10 10 11	Mr W Easterby (5) 4
4	364556	TWO TURTLE DOVES (IRE) (13) (D)(BF) M Mullineaux 6 10 10	Miss M Mullineaux (3) 9
5	/5-055	GLENLINI (13) J Goldie 6 10 7	.....Mrs I C Goldie (7) 2
6	400020	MISSILE ATTACK (IRE) (9) I Semple 4 10 6	Mr J Hamilton (5) 8
7	005536	AMNO DANCER (IRE) (31) I Semple 5 10 2	Mr N Slatter (5) 8
8	4060-3	TOFFEE NOSE (16) R Barr 5 10 1	.....12
9	355003	BLUE NOODLES (12) J Wainwright 6 10 1	Mr A French (7) 7
10	26-000	TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA (34) (D10) W Storey 9 10 0	.....10
11	002-30	KARATE QUEEN (25) R Barr 7 10 0	.....6
12	056006	ANDRASTA (10) (CD) A Berry 7 10 0	.....11

BETTING: 7-2 Distant Sun, 5-1 Blue Noodles, 6-1 Two Turtle Doves, 7-1 Toffee Nose, Amno Dancer, 8-1 Glenlini, 10-1 Karate Queen, Foreign Rhythm, 14-1 others.

- 1 Red and yellow cards were introduced at the football World Cup in which year?
- 2 Who handed three-time super-middleweight world champion Carl Froch his first professional loss in 2010?
- 3 How many times has Serena Williams won the women's singles competition at Wimbledon?
- 4 In which country was controversial cyclist David Millar born?
- 5 Which golfer won the 2010 Open Championship at St Andrews?
- 6 Luol Deng will represent Great Britain in which sport at the Olympics?
- 7 Who won this year's Copa Libertadores final?
- 8 How many Test double-centuries has Kumar Sangakkara scored?
- 9 England winger David Strettle plays for which Aviva Premiership side?
- 10 Who is the only Argentinian to win a women's grand slam singles title?
- 11 Where did Chelsea boss Roberto di Matteo start his managerial career?
- 12 Which county does England bowler Graeme Swann play for?
- 13 Which Grand Slam final did Jo-Wilfried Tsonga reach in 2008?
- 14 At which famous venue will the archery be held at the London Olympics?
- 15 Who is the coach of Super League side Wakefield Wildcats?

### ANSWERS

Open: 15 Richard Agar.  
Dons: 12 Nottinghamshire; 13 Australian  
Gabriela Sabatini (1990 US Open); 11 MK  
Corinthians; 8 Eight 9 Saracens; 10  
Louis Oosthuizen; Answers: 6 Basketball; 7  
1970; 2 Mikkel Kessler 3 Four; 4 Malta; 5



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# Agreeing to disagree on Saints' new strip

**SAINTS' new home kit for their Premier League return has certainly divided opinion.**

Fans have agreed to disagree on whether the mainly red with thin white stripes design is a winner.

The debate has been raging on the Daily Echo website [dailyecho.co.uk](http://dailyecho.co.uk)

Here are just a selection of the comments so far. Log on now to join the debate ...

I'm a saints fan through and through. Worked at the Dell and season ticket holder since St.Mary's opened. I'm more a traditional guy who sees saints play in RED N WHITE STRIPES. This shirt after seeing it today looks more like Man Utd, Liverpool, Arsenal, it's too red. Lovely shirt but sorry we play in stripes and not just red. This shirt does not say southampton.  
**rednwhite42**

Surely the shirts don't have to look fantastic? They're aren't a fashion symbol they are a club supporters shirt. I feel it looks far better than the stripes?  
**IronLady2010**

The design is rubbish. We are Southampton FC, we wear Red and White Stripes, this is a big mistake, fair enough if the club wants to launch a new strip to make money, but have some consideration for tradition. Gutted that I will not be seeing us play in the Prem in our traditional stripes.  
**miltonarcher**

But 'we' aren't SFC, 'they' are SFC. Just carry on wearing the stripes if you prefer them. Or wear an everyday T-Shirt rather than a Saints one. The thing is, it's happened, either you grow to like it and buy one or wear your own choice of clothing, it won't make you any less of a fan surely?  
**IronLady2010**

If Liverpool or even Bristol city suddenly changed their kit to red and white stripes do you think the supporters would take it. Incredible !!!  
**peachy1**

I won't be buying one as I don't want a Bristol City kit.  
**Whiters**

So did you but the red and white stripes? or avoid that too coz it was a Sunderland or Stoke kit? It's not Bristol City or Liverpool or any other team for that matter, it's a Southampton shirt like it or not, buy it or don't buy it, that's your choice, personally I think it



**GETTING SHIRTY:** Saints fan Jamie Shorey, 8, from Lordshill, shows off the new 2012/13 home top which has divided opinion.

looks great and can't wait for the team to come out of the tunnel wearing it with pride  
**Kev63**

I like a departure from tradition. I'd especially like us to depart from our Premiership tradition of waiting until November before we win a game.

**St Retford**

To all the traditionalists as you like to be called harping on about your red n white stripes, get over it. This is one of the best kits Saints have had in a long time.  
**Brusher Mills**

It's different and there are a few

other clubs in the league with stripes. As long as there's red and white in a lined format then why not. Also the sponsor can be seen which may have played a part.

**The Salv**

Personally it's not for me, I don't like it, however everyone to their own. I don't care if the team played in red with white dots, it is how we play, who we beat and consolidation our Premiership position next that really matter.

**Over the Edge**

In my opinion as a Saints fan for over 50 years this is a horrible design. We should play in proper Red and White stripes just like last year. This shirt reminds me of Liverpool years back when they had a successful team.

**saintmark1977**

Something worth pointing out amongst all this. Studies have shown it's far easier to pick out a teammate in a bright block colour, as opposed to a non-bright (aka grey) or striped kit. Do the maths.. animals have stripes to blend in, war vehicles have stripes and zigzags to confuse.

**SaintMax**

The shirt is growing on me. The question I have is so many people were queuing to get the shirt. Do they not have anything better to do than queue for hours on a Saturday to get a shirt that is going to be readily available from now on. I bet there is no queue now or will be one ever again. I've never understood the need to queue for hours to get something on the day of release.

**SFC4EVA**

Stop getting wound up people. The kit looks fine to me. The comments about the alternative designs over the years are all valid. It's a personal taste thing.

It is important to remember that the club has new owners who want this club to have a professional looking kit. This kit undoubtedly meets that requirement.

No! It doesn't have stripes. Neither did the kit that we wore when we left league 1. And we all know that at some time the stripes will return from time to time. Its big business to change the strip every season, and the stripes option will inevitably return one day.

People's memories always heavily influence their perspective on these things. This is a new generation, we are effectively a new club, a new organisation with new owners, new management, new everything. But still with the people who count, the fans. They are the one thing that won't change.

**Alicesdad**

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

● **BRENDON Youth FC** require players for the 2012/13 season.

The club has vacancies in the under-9s through to under-14s age-groups and the under-13s are in particular need of a goalkeeper.

Please contact the relevant manager for more information – Andrew Horn (under-9s) 07970 268524; Mike Gregory (under-10s) 07807 929852; Scott Middleton (under-11s) 07867 961098; Mike Doling (under-12s) 07910 222364; Eddie Holdaway (under-13s) 07711 406076; Tony Witt (under-14s) 07702 528283.

● **SHOLING Youth FC** are looking for players for their under-16 team – in particular a goalkeeper, defender and left back, but all positions are welcome.

Training takes place at 6pm on Tuesdays at Sholing's VT Sports Ground in Portsmouth Road. Please contact Mitch Fear on 07774 329326.

The club would also like to hear from players interested in trialling for other age-groups, from under-18s down to under-7s. Contact Carly Kinsey on 07826 166708.

● **PACE Panthers** have spaces for new players for next season's under-15 Tyro League squad. The Panthers have won a Tyro League title for the last four years.

Contact Rob Lomax on 0787 6776985 for details.

● **ROMSEY Town Youth** are looking for some players to join the new under-eight side for next season (Year 3s from September), as well as some boys to play in the Division 6 under-14 squad.

Trials will be held for the under-14s on Sunday, so please e-mail [romseytownyfc@gmail.com](mailto:romseytownyfc@gmail.com) if you are interested in coming along.

The club also has a vacancy for a volunteer coach/manager to take on one of the mini league teams and will fund all coaching courses as required, so anyone who wants to get involved in coaching should e-mail the club for more details.



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